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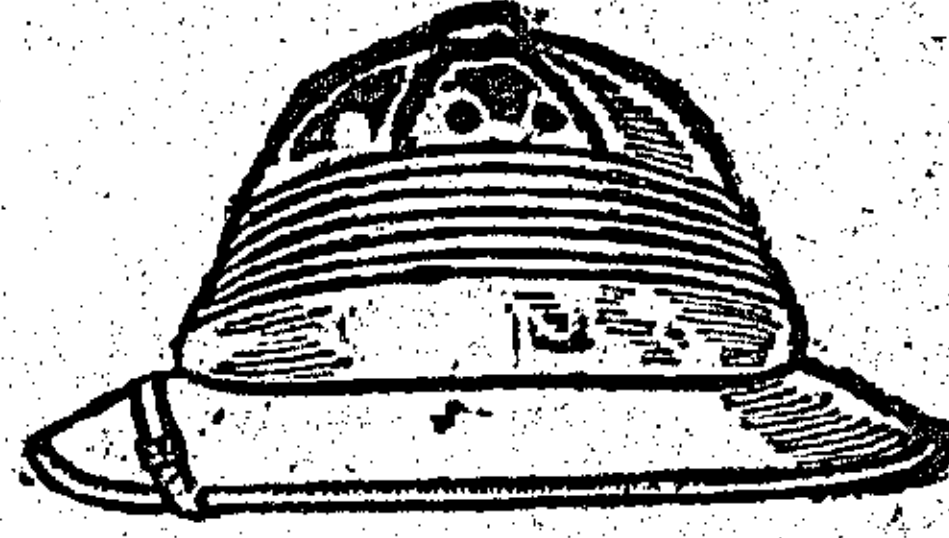
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[1281]

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[1971]

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[1845]

## SHIPBUILDING IN U.S.A.

A VAST PROGRAMME

THE REPLY TO THE U-BOAT.

[FROM "THE TIMES" CORRESPONDENT.]

WASHINGTON, February 28th. The American Government has decided to lift the veil of secrecy which up to now has covered much of America's war activity. It is the desire of the American Government that a frank, open, truthful statement of facts be published in Europe, without, of course, imparting any information of technical value to the German military autocracy. Correspondents of newspapers published in neutral and allied countries are to be shown, under official guidance, everything that America is doing to win the war.

As the first step in this programme they have just visited the great shipbuilding centres in the Eastern States, have been to Washington, to Philadelphia, Boston, and New York, and have seen the most important of the Government Navy yards, and the great private shipbuilding plants, as well as the great engineering reservations where ships are to be put together as the last process in the new standardized manufacture of vessels by wholesale. The correspondents chosen were treated with the utmost frankness. Nothing was hidden from them. They were given the fullest information in regard to tonnage production and submarine sinkings. The offensive measures planned were explained, as well as the relation which the work seen bears to the whole programme.

As the result of the information thus gained it is permissible to make the following statements:—

- (1)—American shipbuilding is not confined to the replacement of sunken tonnage, but is very largely of a naval nature.
- (2)—The submarine menace will be overcome and the U-boats driven from the sea with mathematical certainty.
- (3)—Shipbuilding is being revolutionized by the new methods and the application of standardization.
- (4)—American labour is responding with splendid spirit to the call of duty, and is absolutely unanimous in support of Mr. Gompers' "win the war first, talk afterwards" policy.

In all the shipyards visited, where both merchant vessels and warships are being constructed, preference was being given to naval vessels. In Government yards, where only warships are being built, preference was given to destroyers and other war work specially designed to act against submarines.

The magnitude of the American naval construction programme, now well advanced, is very great. One private yard, not specially devoted to war work, is turning out the swiftest and most powerful destroyers faster than Germany can build submarines. In great Government Navy yards, where super-Dreadnoughts with twelve 14-in. guns are being built, special efforts are concentrated on the same model—300ft. 36-knot destroyers, equipped with all kinds of new apparatus, and throwing depth bombs, which are being turned out at other yards. This type of vessel is the natural enemy of the U-boat, all naval officers agreeing that the depth bomb has proved the most effective weapon against the submarine. I saw 100-ton submarine chasers on the ways, but manufactured on a railway track and picked up by a travelling crane, which lowers them into the water. I was shown other offensive devices, about which much could be said, but nothing may be written; also numbers of American submarines, which themselves will play no small part in destroying their German prototypes.

NEW DEVICES AGAINST SUBMARINES. This great construction of naval offensive weapons is not interfering in any way appreciable degree with the progress of the Shipyard Board's programme for building merchant tonnage. As officially stated recently, the combined construction of Great Britain and the United States last year exceeds 2,000,000 tons, or more than one-third of the total submarine sinkings. This year construction should at least equal the sinkings, even if the present rate of destruction were to continue.

It is not permissible to give the number of destroyer submarine chasers, and other craft, which are being built, or to reveal dates of completion, but it can be stated that construction is well ahead of the schedule, and that the speed of production is most satisfactory, as is evidenced by the fact that the time of construction of a 300ft. 36-knot latest type destroyer, from the laying of the keel to the trial trip, is only from 22 to 24 weeks; and that when the latest American destroyer now under construction reaches European waters, Great Britain and the United States combined will have 10 destroyers of the latest model for every single U-boat actually at work. There will also be a large addition to the existing fleet of submarine chasers and patrol boats, and new and strange dangers will beset U-boats from the sky above and from beneath the waters. It may be added that in no branch of naval science has greater progress been made than in the new devices, both aerial and electrical, for the detection of submarines.

Equally as important as the production of naval and merchant tonnage is the fact that shipbuilding is being revolutionized by the new methods and the application of standardization. When the plants now being built are completed it will be no impossible thing to launch a vessel of 5,000 tons and 15 knots speed in six weeks from the day the keel is laid. At one plant ships were being built in a row as if they were steel houses. The correspondents saw a keel laid and were taken to inspect another vessel in which the finished bulkheads were being lowered into place. When they returned half an hour later they found the girders of the first keel already being riveted. What will be done at one place can be done elsewhere with no other limitations than the supply of labour.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

## THE GERMAN BANKS.

CALL FOR A DEFINITE DATE FOR FINAL LIQUIDATION.

The following correspondence on the winding-up of the German banks has passed between Lord Leith of Fyvie, President of the British Empire Union, and Mr. Bonar Law:—

340, Strand, W.C.2, Feb. 8th, 1918.

Dear Mr. Bonar Law.—Will you allow me, as President of the British Empire Union, to draw your attention to the concern which I have reason to know is widespread among the general public at the continued existence of the German banks?

The public satisfaction, which was very keen when the premises of the banks were sold, has been seriously mitigated by the information given in Sir William Plender's report for 1917. This shows, not only that the progress of the "winding-up" of the German banks is still unfinished, but that apparently it is Sir W. Plender's considered opinion that the "final liquidation" cannot be completed during the war. No suggestion is, of course, made by the British Empire Union that Sir W. Plender has not in every way done his utmost to deal with the German banks in accordance with the power placed in his hands, but with regard to the possibility of "final liquidation" it is naturally regarded the subject solely or mainly from the financial standpoint of securing the largest results from the assets.

I would suggest to you, whether it would not be both possible and desirable for the Government to take action on that wider ground of the national interest and security for the future. If the work of liquidation is not completed before the conclusion of peace, there is apparently nothing to prevent the banks immediately resuming business and collecting round them their former clientele in this country. The Convention of March 27th, 1914, under which the German banks were established here, may be still valid in default of definite denunciation by this country. This is a prospect which the nation, inspired with the strongest determination to rid itself of German influence, can only regard with grave alarm.

The British Empire Union would urge upon you to fix and order a definite date for the "final liquidation" of the banks, and promote legislation for the denunciation of the Convention of 1914—if it has not already been abrogated by the Declaration of War—to render it absolutely impossible for the German banks to be re-established in the British Isles after the conclusion of peace, so that they may be prevented from carrying out, in any way or form, their methods of intensive penetration. If these German banks are kept alive, they will be in competition with the British Trade Corporation and others, to the great detriment of the development of foreign trade by our producers, manufacturers, and merchants.—Yours very truly,

LEITH OF FYVIE, President.

Treasury Chambers, Whitehall S.W.1.

February 11th, 1918.

Dear Lord Leith.—I have received your letter relating to the question of the German banks. It shall receive my careful consideration.—Yours very truly,

A. BONAR LAW.

## PUBLIC APPRECIATION OF A COURAGEOUS PRESS.

We continue to receive letters from readers in all parts of the country (says the *Morning Post*, of London) expressing approval of the action for which last week we suffered prosecution. Further offers of subscriptions towards the payment of the fines and costs imposed on the *Morning Post* have reached us, and one reader, who sent a cheque yesterday, suggests that hundreds of others should do likewise. "As a mark of appreciation of the sane policy, high-toned principles, excellent public spirit, and disinterested patriotism always advocated and displayed by the *Morning Post*, if we mention this suggestion it is not because we wish or could allow it to be acted on, but because we are most sensible of the good feeling underlying it. In thanking our many friends for such practical expression of their sympathy, we can only repeat the statement inserted in the article which led to the prosecution, namely, there are times when we must take our courage in both hands and risk the consequences."

## LABOUR'S FINE RECORD.

I was particularly struck by the attitude of the workmen in the shipyards. The supply of trained mechanics is totally inadequate, but the technical education of untrained men is going on apace. Most large yards have their schools, and the general opinion is that any man of average intelligence, a totally unskilled labourer, or an ordinary clerk, can be transformed into a good riveter in 30 days and become expert in less than three months. I was struck also by the efficient manner in which labour is being utilized. The spirit of the men is altogether admirable. The winter has been a trying, severe and intense hardships have been endured by the men. Nothing justified the extraordinary effort made at Hog Island, where 50 slipways have been laid down, 120,000 piles driven, hundreds of miles of railway built, and a whole city erected on ground frozen five feet deep and so hard that it had to be blasted with dynamite. Men who could not stand the conditions made way in an unending stream for other workers, and although in the terrible month of December the turnover of unskilled labour reached 270 per cent, the work was never delayed for lack of man-power.

American shipyards are full of posters announcing that "the sooner we finish these ships the sooner the war will be ended," and other similar appeals. The men take a genuine interest in their work. Indeed, no human being could fail to be thrilled by the efforts being made. In some plants are still running single shifts, it is not due to the labour supply, but to the capacity of the steel mills and factories and to the extraordinary congestion of the railroads.

## THE BATTLE FOR JERICHO.

By another brilliant operation the Palestine Army has driven the Turks from the series of mountain ridges east of Jerusalem—the taking of which presented many difficult military tasks—forced the enemy out of Jericho, cleared the valley of the west and southern section of the Jordan, and compelled the Turks to burn their storerooms and the pier of Hajim el Bahr, north of the Dead Sea, which is their important centre of grain supply, wrote Mr. W. T. Massey from Palestine Headquarters, on February 21st. The different phases of the operations lasted three days, and the splendidly executed movements were timed perfectly. The mountain heights being taken almost according to timetable. Our forces almost describe the infantry moving on a 12-mile front as a piece of machinery set to reach and crush at certain specified moments. The London infantrymen and their gunners were irresistible, and carried position after position by magnificent courage, great skill, and fine physical strength inflicting heavy losses on the enemy, whose stubbornness was of no avail against our men's greatly superior military qualities. Then Anzac mounted troops moving down from the high country near Jerusalem, got among the crags and boulders of the lower levels and, after being held up for a time in country entirely favouring the defence, compelled the enemy to leave Jericho and sent him flying east of Jordan.

No one who has not stood on the Mount of Olives and looked out on the rugged, barren, twisted country falling away to the Jordan and the Dead Sea can realize the tremendous effort required to turn out an obstinate enemy from the trenches cut and blasted out of the ridges and spurs of these gaunt hills. The whole country is one succession of hills and valleys until it reaches the marshy flats over 1,000ft. below sea level. There is scarcely a flat place in the whole 18 miles from Jerusalem, and throughout their magnificent advance the Londoners were either climbing up steep slopes and stony ridges, or moving along wadi beds worn in the rock-faced hills by the torrents of centuries. One place, the Wadi Farar, has perpendicular cliff sides 500ft. high. In this broken terrain the Londoners were set the task of ousting their dug-in foe, who fights best behind entrenchments. That they succeeded with comparatively little loss places them even higher than their previous glorious record in this campaign.

I watched them scaling the boulder-strewn hillside, getting over crests, and advancing across open ground in the face of the rapid, heavy thuds of the mountain guns and the whirling rap of the machine-guns, and I can say that their gallantry is unsurpassable and their spirit unquenchable. No obstacle was too great to be hesitated, nothing beat them. The Turks, with all the advantages in their favor, were completely defeated. On the first day we counted 120 Turks dead, and yesterday the enemy losses must have been very severe.

THE ATTACK. On Tuesday at dawn we attacked four important positions running almost due north and south, one line about 20,000 yards about five miles east of Jerusalem. El Muntar, a bleak, black hill, south-east of Jerusalem, only lightly occupied, was taken soon after 6 o'clock. Ras-el-Tawil, a brown knob dominating a wide district, was taken by a column which marched from Mukmas during the night, overcoming resistance at Splash Hill on the way. After heavy bombardment the Turks were seen retreating from Tawil in a northerly direction, and the hill was taken at 9 o'clock. The centre column got north and south, and then went on to the high ground running eastwards the Turks put up a stout resistance, one London battalion having to assault three times before bayoneting the enemy out of the trenches. The whole line was in our hands by 3 o'clock.

During the night the southern column moved forward towards the mountain chain some nine miles east of Jerusalem, at the northern edge lies Talat-el-Dumir, the key to Jericho, and winding up over its face is the Jerusalem-Jericho road.

THE HILL OF BLOOD. On the hill is the well-known Good Samaritan Inn, and standing out as a fine landmark on what the Arabs call the Hill of Blood is Crusader Castle, with little save the most ancient ruins remaining of its past glory. The hill London troops attacked at daylight. The preliminary bombardment was short, but wonderfully effective. The heaviest burst in and about the castle, and the whole series of trenches were most accurately searched as soon as the Turks were seen to leave them and rush across the broad green patch towards the defile. The infantry at this time were ascending the spur of the hill. Before they reached the top the Turks were rallied and brought back, but when the Londoners reached the top there was a very brief fight, and the enemy fled again to the defile. They made one counter-attack, but the position was gained by 8 o'clock, though the enemy sniped at long-range during the day.

At the southern end of the range is Jebel Ektief, whose southern face is as precipitous as Gibraltar, and from its sides are massive spurs with deep gulleys between them. Some of our troops had marched in the dark hours over the long mountain chain from El Muntar and in places the men had to walk in single file. The enemy on Ektief held on stubbornly, though when the bombardment was at its heaviest I saw some leave for more comfortable positions. The Turks shelled places where they thought our men were preparing to attack, but their fire was hopelessly outclassed by ours, and soon after 10 when our fire was lifted, the first line of trenches was carried by a fine rush.

About this time I could see the Turks setting fire to their stores on the shores of the Dead Sea, scuttling one boat and remove two others, a huge cloud of white smoke indicating that a considerable quantity of material had been destroyed. For a couple of hours there was a good deal of fighting on Ektief, the Turks having a number of machine-guns hidden in the rough ground. These were routed out, and the whole range was in our possession by the afternoon.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

## MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE.

ENTERTAINMENT AND SALE OF WORK.

The Ministering Children's League held a sale of work yesterday at the City Hall, and, in spite of the rain, there was a good attendance and satisfactory business was done. There were only three stalls—a Sweet Stall; Pickles and Jam Stall; and a Work Stall. Those in charge of them were:—

Sweet Stall.—Mrs. Chandler, Pickles and Jam Stall.—Mrs. Stringer and Mrs. Holloway.

Work Stall.—Mrs. Piercy, Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. Warren and Mrs. Eustace. THE ENTERTAINMENT.

At the conclusion of the sale, an entertainment was given at the Theatre Royal in aid of the League, and also a farewell to Mrs. Piercy. Those responsible for the arrangement of the programme are to be congratulated upon the success achieved, and very considerable praise should be given to Mrs. Harris-Walker, who undertook the task of training the young folk for a number of pretty dances.

The programme commenced with a well-executed pianoforte duet by the Misses V. and R. Young, and this was followed by an exceedingly graceful and pleasing scarf dance by ten little girls dressed in pink and blue, led by Miss V. Capel—the Misses Eustace, Hanson, Pennefather, I. Thornhill, A. Rose, Nolan, J. Rose, G. Blackburn, J. Thornhill and Arnold. The Misses Daisy Wicheil (Boy) and Kathie Shaw (Maid), entertained the audience with an excellent rendering of the nursery rhyme, "Where are you going to, my Pretty Maid?" and the Misses V. and R. Young next danced an Irish jig in first-rate style. One of the best items on the programme, however, was that in which the adults contributed their share. It consisted of the staging of Tennyson's "Dream of Fair Women," and was so well done and was so thoroughly appreciated by those present that the curtain had to be twice rung up before the applause subsided. The cast was as follows:—

The Dreamer ..... Mrs. Thornton. Cleopatra ..... Mrs. R. L. Bridger. Helen of Troy ..... Mrs. Blackburn. Iphigenia ..... Miss F. Rosser. Jephtha's Daughter ..... Mrs. A. E. Crapnell. Fair Rosamond ..... Mrs. Middleton Smith. Margaret Roper ..... Mrs. Surman. Joan of Arc ..... Miss C. Hanson. Eleanor of Castile ..... Miss S. Weill.

In the second part of the programme, after a pianoforte solo by Mr. T. Sanderson, Miss Joan Arnold, whose skill is well-known to Hongkong audiences, gave an admirable solo-dance, and this was followed by the "Song of the Bow," in which a number of children took part. The "Doll Dance" was also very effective, the dancers including the Misses Eustace, Pennefather, Hanson, J. Rose, E. Rose, Crispin, E. Blackburn, V. Blackburn, R. Young, V. Young, Harris Walker, J. Black, Ruby Young, Nolan, Capel and Thornhill. During the dance, Miss I. Thornhill sang "Little Bo Peep." The finale was the production of the Trial Scene from the "Merchant of Venice," by the students of the Victoria British School. The piece was staged a few days ago at the annual distribution of prizes at the School. The cast was:—

The Duke ..... Geo. Angus. Portia ..... Miss E. Woolley. Shylock ..... D. Lyon. Antonio ..... Miss C. Angus. Bassanio ..... Miss N. McNellie. Gratiano ..... Miss R. Tolan. Nerissa ..... Miss D. Wicheil. Servant of the Duke ..... Miss S. Shaw. Mrs. Rose and Miss Dorothy Morris acted as the accompanists throughout the entertainment.

## ANZAC CAVALRY.

Meanwhile Australian and New Zealand mounted troops moved eastwards from El Muntar over the hills, along the valleys, threatening the enemy's rear. The cavalry had to negotiate a most difficult country, and were held up for a considerable time in a defile through which only two men could pass abreast. The enemy brought several guns to bear at this point. He also opposed us strongly eastwards from Tawil, but when darkness fell we had got such commanding positions that the Turks moved off east as fast as they could, and our mounted troops entered Jericho this morning. There is not one Turk between Jericho and Jerusalem, and it seems safe to prophesy that the Turks will never attempt to attack the Holy City from the east. During the operations, Welsh troops made a strong demonstration on the north, preventing the Turks from reinforcing their troops on the east.



# RETIREMENT OF MR. T. K. DEALY.

## PRESENTATION AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

### OVER THIRTY-THREE YEARS' SERVICE.

Mr. T. K. Dealy, the headmaster of Queen's College, who is retiring on pension after 33½ years in the Government service, was yesterday presented by the Staff and Students of the College with a leather trunk, a handsomely-fitted travelling bag and a deck chair.

The presentation took place in the Assembly Hall of the College and was made by Mr. B. Tanner, the second master, who now succeeds Mr. Dealy in the headmastership. Mr. Tanner, in asking Mr. Dealy to accept the gifts with the best wishes of all concerned, said they were exceedingly sorry that Mr. Dealy's leaving should be clouded by the sad news he received, and they trusted that when he reached Australia on his way to England he would find Mrs. Dealy in good health, and that he would live many years to enjoy the pension he had earned.

In acknowledgment, Mr. Dealy said:—I am extremely touched at this signal mark of your esteem for me. It is a commonplace, but it is nevertheless absolutely true, when I say that there is no need of these useful presents to remind me of the depth and sincerity of your feeling towards me. The joint work we have accomplished in the past, and which is being accomplished at the moment, is sufficient evidence of our mutual regard and sympathy. It would be useless of me to say that I am about to sever my long connection with Queen's College without experiencing a severe wrench. That is quite out of the question. I feel the separation very keenly. I have spent a longer period here than will be possible for me now to spend in any other single locality. It is over 33½ years since, as a very young man, I first left London on the *s.s. Glenarvon*, to come to Hongkong. That period alone is a good half of an ordinarily long life.

I have witnessed two clear generations of boys—fathers and sons—pass through the school. During the whole of that period, I can honestly say that in all that I have done here I have put in the best of which I was capable. I have never spared myself; and, I need hardly add, I regret neither the time nor the energy so given in the course of my duties. I am unfeignedly proud of this school, and of my life-long connection with it.

I find that since the School was first opened in 1862, no fewer than 14,569 boys have been inscribed on its General Register. During my stay, 12,080 of them have passed through the school. I have thus been in close touch with about six out of every seven boys who have ever been here. That is a record to which I point with unalloyed delight and pride, and a glance down that myriad-long list of names makes me feel grieved that I am now, at the end of my career. I believe I am correct when I say that the Chinese Members of the Legislative Council hitherto, without exception, have been old Q.C. students. The Civil Service, in all its many departments, in those branches recruited locally, is very largely made up of Q.C.s; the commanders of all the Banks, and of nearly all the leading business firms are also our old pupils; while those engaged in shops and stores are legion. It is thus no exaggeration to say that if all our old boys in the Colony at the present moment were to cease work in their various capacities—to go out on strike, so to speak—for a single day, the business of the Colony would be brought to an undoubted standstill. Our old scholars occupy honourable positions not only in the Colony, but throughout the Eighteen Provinces. The more ambitious of them go to Europe and to America to continue and complete what they have begun here; and invariably do so with shining success. I need not mention their success in our own University; that is too well-known to you all.

In the course of my stay here the changes that I have witnessed are many and great. Not long ago, I alluded to the enormous difference between the present magnificent building and its grounds, and the old Central School, which was its immediate forerunner. Differences in the syllabus of work are just as striking. The students themselves offer an equally remarkable contrast. At the present day, the entire school is really made up of eager earnest boys, of boys bubbling over with young life; when I first came this was not quite the case.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

# AN ECHO OF THE GRESSON STREET AFFRAY.

## POLICE PRESENTATION TO MR. "KID" MARRIOTT.

Yesterday evening, at the Central Police Station, Mr. "Kid" Marriott, was presented with a gold watch and chain by the members of the Police Force, both at Yaumati and Hongkong, in token of appreciation of the services he rendered in connection with the Gresson Street tragedy.

The Hon. Mr. C. Mol. Messer (Captain-Superintendent of Police) who made the presentation, dwelt on the good work Mr. Marriott had done by shooting a desperado and ridding Hongkong of one of its worst criminals. The man, whose name was Ng Ling, had not only murdered several armed robbers, but had killed two members of the European Police force—the late Inspector O'Sullivan and Sergeant Clarke—and several Chinese and Indian constables at No. 6, Gresson Street. Mr. Marriott had given the Police on several occasions. Both the Colony and the Police Force owed him a debt of gratitude for avenging the death of two of their most respected and highly esteemed comrades. Mr. Messer expressed the hope that Mr. Marriott would be long spared to wear the token of appreciation which they asked him to accept, and that it would be handed down to posterity as a memento of what he had done for the Colony and the Police Force. (Applause.)

Mr. Marriott suitably returned thanks, saying that the gift was unexpected, and would be cherished by him as long as he lived.

## GUARDS' RECOGNITION OF INDIAN GALLANTRY.

In the House of Lords, recently, the Earl of Derby, replying to a question, said there was one particular incident associated with the gallantry of soldiers from India at Cambrai which he would like to mention. So greatly was their bravery on that occasion appreciated by the Guards Division that they made a present of plate to that particular regiment as a memento. (Cheers.) That showed the great appreciation in which these Indian cavalry were held by other forces of his Majesty's Army.

Then, serious students of over 30 years of age were not unusual, and were never refused admission, while the number of those over 20 years old, even in low classes, was very great. It is not a fable that father and son were scholars in school at the same time—it is actual, authenticated fact, although that particular case occurred before my arrival. A well-known black-and-white artist who on his travels passed through Hongkong and visited Queen's College has recorded in a vigorous drawing in *The Captain*, a school journal, the incident of the delinquent father being caned in class to the evident amusement of his own son and classmate. This incident was related to me by the Headmaster concerned. The most recent change is one in the constitution of the staff—I speak of the welcome presence of your mistresses.

Another fact which occurs to me, although not strictly concerned with the school, also shows the enormous strides made in the past 30 years. It was a common practice, as I have often seen with my own eyes, among the boat population in those days to strike a light by the use of primitive flint and steel; it was less expensive than the Swedish matches, which themselves have been since displaced by home-made matches.

I again thank you sincerely and with great warmth for your extremely practical gift. They will be of constant use to me for some length of time in the near future, and will unfailingly remind me of the many arduous years of mingled toil and pleasure spent within these walls. My steamer does not sail until Saturday afternoon, so that I do not now say good-bye, for I should like to think that the last I should see of the Colony would be those I now see about me.

Hearty cheers were then given for Mr. Dealy and the gathering separated.

## PRESENTATION OF MEDALS.

Before the presentation ceremony Mr. Dealy handed to Ko Kin Fan, a student at the College, the medal won by him in the Olympic games at Tokio in May, 1917. Medals were presented to each member of the team by the Committee of the Far Eastern Athletic Association. Two Queen's College boys were included in the team from China, but Chan Chi Wai, the other student who is entitled to the award, was yesterday on the sick list.

# CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

(BEFORE THE CHIEF JUSTICE (HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM REES DAVIES, K.C.)).

## A CALLOUS AND FEROCIOUS MURDER.

### PRISONER SENTENCED TO DEATH.

The hearing was resumed, yesterday, of the case in which Ip Hoi is indicted for murdering Lai Man at 43, Yie Wo Street, on the 15th of April.

Mr. F. C. Jenkin, C.B.E. (instructed by Mr. Leo Longinotto, Assistant Crown Solicitor), prosecuted on behalf of the Attorney-General; and Mr. Tsun Nin Chan (instructed by Mr. J. H. Gardiner) defended the prisoner.

The following jury were empanelled to try the case:—Messrs. P. C. Fots, V. F. d'Azavedo, D. S. Levi, D. Ritchie, F. Thorpe, J. A. Salm, and C. A. Carvalho. Inspector Sim had stated in his evidence-in-chief, that when he arrested prisoner he noticed that his left nostril appeared to have been bleeding. When the Counsel for the defence asked Inspector Sim whether he was quite sure of this he replied "yes." This was the subject of minute cross-examination by His Lordship, yesterday, as it had an important bearing on the case.

His Lordship: You told the learned Counsel for the defence that when you first saw prisoner his nose appeared to be bleeding?—Inspector Sim: Yes, his left nostril.

This is the first time you said that?—No, I intimated that to the Magistrate.

His Lordship informed the jury that the point under discussion was very important in view of the fact that Sgt. Cotton had stated that the reason which led him to arrest prisoner was the fact that there were bloodstains on his coat.

His Lordship (to Inspector Sim): Did you say this to the Magistrate?—Inspector Sim: Yes, I did say it.

But the Magistrate did not take it down. It is a very material point?—I am certain I said it.

Well, the Magistrate did not take it down. If you said it he may not have heard it?—I did say it to him.

You see the importance of this?—I do.

Well, if you said it I am bound to accept your statement. I was not there. Did you say that when you first saw defendant he had bloodstains on his jacket, and that he pointed to his nose and said it was bleeding?—Yes.

You said the left part of his nose appeared to be bleeding?—Yes.

Were you satisfied that it was not bleeding at the time?—It was not bleeding then; it only appeared to be bleeding.

It could not have been caused by the man putting his finger, covered with blood, into his nose?—I do not think so. It was after 6 p.m.

That would be seven hours after the murder?—Yes.

The blood appeared to be dried?—Yes, my own conclusion was that the spots on the jacket could not have come from the nose; they were spread all over.

His Lordship: That is not admissible. But the blood in the nostril appeared to be dry?—No; the blood in the left nostril was wet, but that on the jacket was dry.

You made careful examination?—Yes. Did you yourself examine the clothes?—Yes.

Did the blood on them appear to be wet?—It appeared to be dry.

Mr. Jenkin here stated that it was his duty as Counsel for the Crown to say that in his opening address he drew an inference from the blood on the clothes which was unfavourable to the prisoner. That was the first time Inspector Sim had given notice of those circumstances and it was the first time that the Crown Solicitor's Department, who prosecuted the case in the Police Court, heard of the fact at all. He was instructed to say that the Crown Solicitors were not aware of it. If he (Counsel) had known about it he would not have drawn that inference.

His Lordship: I must say you exercised a very proper discretion in the case. As a matter of fact, was the Assistant Crown Solicitor in the Court?—Mr. Jenkin: Mr. Longinotto prosecuted.

Had he any recollection of it?—None whatever.

You are not prepared to say that Inspector Sim might have referred to it, but that Mr. Longinotto did not recollect?—What he is prepared to say is that

the point was of such material importance that he cannot believe he would have missed it. The same thing applies to the Magistrate.

His Lordship said he must accept the statement made by Inspector Sim, but he wished to say that he frequently had occasion to refer to the unfortunate habit of police officers keeping back evidence most material to the Court. He was bound to accept the evidence, but very strong language was necessary to characterize the action of responsible police officers in not bringing forward the most important evidence before the Court.

Inspector Sim: I must still say that I informed the Magistrate about it.

His Lordship: Well, the Court accepts it. Thank you.

Mr. Tsun Nin Chan, opening the case for the defence, said in absence of any strong motive for the crime was decided by the favour of the prisoner. The prosecution suggested that the desire to obtain \$12, belonging to the dead man, might have been the motive for the murder. He personally did not think that \$12 was a sufficient inducement for one man to take the life of another. Presuming that was the motive, why should prisoner commit the murder in so brutal a manner? The jury had heard that a portion of the body had been ripped open. That could not have been for the sake of obtaining the \$12, but something worse, and that was that the deceased had been the subject of some man's hatred. As a matter of fact, the third man, who was present in the house and who is under arrest, handed over to prisoner the ticket for the deceased's pay. That man shrank from appearing in public bearing in mind the crime that he had committed a few hours previously. Besides, that man was a power and a terror in the village, and the villagers were always at his beck and call, so that if he ordered prisoner to kill, his mouth shut under threat of doing him bodily harm, as the prisoner stated, it was possible that prisoner, a younger man, would obey him. There was hatred and ill-feeling between the deceased and the other man, over a woman. There was no witness to the crime; they had to depend entirely on circumstantial evidence, and unless that was so strong as to be undoubted, the duty of the jury was to return a verdict of not guilty.

Ip Hoi, the prisoner, then entered the witness-box and gave evidence, after which he was cross-examined at great length by Mr. Jenkin.

Mr. Jenkin, addressing the jury for the prosecution, reverted to the incident of the bloodstains on the prisoner's jacket. He asked the jury to efface it entirely from their minds. After all, it was not so important as one would imagine. The fact remained that there were several circumstances which linked prisoner with the murder. The first point was that only two people could have committed the brutal murder, namely, the prisoner and the other man. Both were in the room, and the prisoner bore that statement out. He stated that on his return after washing his mouth, he saw the other man chopping deceased with a hatchet. The first point was that if the murder was a concerted action it was conceivable that they would have so comforted themselves as not to arouse the suspicions of the women in the house, and that was just what happened. If, as the prisoner stated, he asked the other man to desist from his murderous intent, surely he would have uttered an exclamation of horror, thereby bringing the other people in. Then again, when the principal tenant of the house rated him and charged him with the murder he did not demur. Even when the police charged him he did not deny the accusation, knowing full well that he was guilty. As to the question of his mediating between the deceased and the other man, would it be possible, if that were true, that prisoner would have taken the deceased's ticket, collected his pay, and yet abstained from informing the necessary authorities or the police? The money was found on him, and his explanation of this he stated that he resisted the other man's attempt to take it from him. Well, if he were in such terror of the other man that he dared not inform the police, would he be so brave as to resist his taking the money?

Mr. Tsun Nin Chan said it was not possible for a man who had committed a murder at 11.15 a.m. to leave the place a few minutes later without attempting to hide the body or to wash himself and remove any trace of bloodstains. Did the jury imagine that a man guilty of such a crime would go into the place where he was employed and openly hand over deceased's identification disc and receive his pay? The murder was committed by the other man, who was a powerful and feared leader of the village. Prisoner, who had been prevailed upon not to disclose the identity of the murderer on pain of death, had been ordered to go out and collect the money. There were two persons in the murder, and if the jury had any shadow of doubt as to which one committed the deed that doubt, according to law, should benefit the prisoner.

His Lordship, in summing up, said the point the jury had to consider was whether the two men had concerted to commit the crime, or whether, as was argued by the defence, the prisoner had been terrified with the other man, and, having been terrified, kept his mouth shut; also, whether the fear extended till the time when they were arrested. Was the prisoner justified in keeping silence? The jury unanimously returned a verdict of "Guilty."

His Lordship (to prisoner): You have been found guilty of an inconceivably brutal murder. It is possible that the other man might have had the motive you assign to him. The jury by their verdict have found you guilty, and I do not think there could be much doubt that you took part in the murder of this unfortunate man. His Lordship then passed sentence of death in the usual form.

# INTIMATIONS

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## SLAZENGER'S AND AYRE'S

1918

# TENNIS BALLS

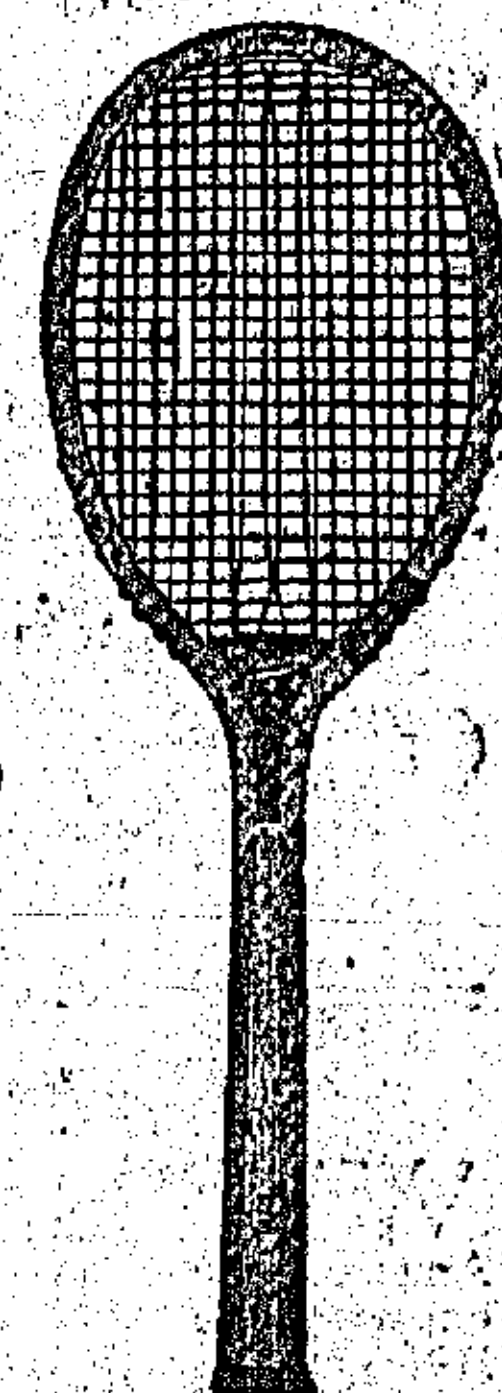
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AYRE'S No. 1 "SLOTTED THROAT,"  
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BUSSEY'S FAMOUS "DEMON DRIVER,"  
"VANTAGE," "TOURNAMENT,"  
THE "LEE."



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HAS TENSILE STRENGTH, FLEXIBILITY, DURABILITY.

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Hotel Mansions, Mission Buildings,  
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We have now a complete stock of

# BATHING COSTUMES.

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IN SMART  
COLOURINGS AND WHITE.

**BATH GOWNS**

**TOWELS**

TURKISH, HUCKABACK, and LINEN.  
**RELIABLE QUALITIES.**



## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

**HONGKONG GYMKHANA CLUB.**  
**THE SECOND GYMKHANA MEETING** of the Season will be held at HARRY VALLEY, on SATURDAY, the 11th instant, commencing at 8.30 P.M.  
 The Charge of Admission will be \$1 for others than Members of the HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB or GYMKHANA CLUB.  
 Soldiers and Sailors in uniform Free.  
 The Committee invite the Ladies of Hongkong to be present.  
 Hongkong, 8th May, 1918. [1918]

## TO LET.

"COOMBE," No. 173, Coombe Road, Magazine Gap, The Peak (furnished), with Tennis Court and Vegetable Garden, Electric Light and Telephone, for 6 months from 1st June, 1918.  
 Apply to—  
 DEACON, LOOKER, DEACON & HARSTON, [1918]

## WANTED.

**COMPETENT BOOK KEEPER.** Apply in writing stating salary required to—  
 PERCY SMITH, SETH & FLEMING. [1918]

## WANTED.

**WANTED** by a European Firm in India an EXPERT, European, Chinese or American, who has a thorough practical experience in the manufacture of glue from hide cuttings and bones. Good salary to a reliable man. Apply in the first instance with copies of testimonials.  
 MANAGER,  
 Care of "Daily Press" Office. [1918]

## NOTICE.

**CARVALHO & COMPANY.**  
**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Mr. HENRY ARMAND HENRICKSON CASTRO has this day CEASED to be the Manager of our Business at Hongkong, and his authority to sign our Firm Name has been withdrawn.  
 Dated this 6th day of May, 1918.  
 CARVALHO & CO. [1918]

## HONGKONG CLUB.

## NOTICE.

**AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING** of the Members of the HONGKONG CLUB will be held in the Large Dining Room, on THURSDAY, the 16th inst., at 5.30 P.M.

As set forth in the Notice Posted in the Hall of the Club.  
 By Order,  
 LE DES VŒUX, Secretary. [1918]

## NOTICE.

**UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LTD.**

**THE CERTIFICATE No. 3061** for 38 Shares Nos. 11410 to 11445 standing in the books of the Society in the name of FRANKSON & PATLA, Chamberlains late of Wimbledon, Middlesex, England, has been declared LOST and if at the expiration of one month from the date hereof the above Certificate be not forthcoming another Certificate for the said Shares will be issued by the Society and thereafter no other will be acknowledged.

**C. MONTAGUE EDE,** General Manager. [1918]

## LOST.

**IN Kowloon, a LIVER and WHITE POINTER DOG,** answers to the Name of "MAX." Anyone found hereafter in possession of the dog, without reasonable excuse, will be prosecuted.  
 Mr. E. V. M. R. DE SOUSA,  
 No. 1, Ormsby Villas,  
 Granville Road, Kowloon. [1918]

## FOR SALE.

**\$100 PEARL THREAD-NECK LACE** and **\$25 PEARL EARRINGS.** Necessity compels the Vendor to sell these very cheaply.  
 Apply from 12 to 7 p.m. Room 68, King Edward Hotel. [1918]

## WAI KEE.

**FLAG & SAILMAKER.**  
 No. 129, Des Vaux Road Central, Top Floor, HONGKONG.  
 Telephone No. 1833. [1918]

## NOW ON SALE.

**HONGKONG HANSARD REPORTS** of the MEETING of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL for the Session, 1917.

REVISED BY THE MEMBERS  
 PRICE ... .. \$5  
 \*DAILY PRESS, OFFICE.

## INTIMATIONS

## HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

## NOTICE.

**THE HALF-YEARLY MEETING** of the Members Advertised to be held on SATURDAY, the 27th April, is unavoidably postponed until SATURDAY, the 11th May, 1918, at 12 o'clock Noon, at the Offices of the JOCKEY CLUB, on the Ground Floor of the HONGKONG CLUB ANNEX, Chater Road.

By Order,  
 T. F. HOUGH,  
 Clerk of the Course. [1918]

## THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the TWENTY-NINTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Company's Offices, St. George's Building, on SATURDAY, the 11th May, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of presenting the Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts to 28th February, 1918, electing Directors and Auditors.  
**TRANSFER BOOKS** of the Company will be CLOSED from 12 o'clock Noon April 27th to 12 o'clock Noon May 11th.  
 By Order of the Board of Directors,  
 GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents. [1918]

## CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

## NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

**THE THIRTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING** of SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Offices of the undersigned on FRIDAY, the 17th May, 1918, at Noon.  
 The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 3rd May to the 17th May, both days inclusive.  
 JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., General Agents. [1918]

## THE CHINA-BORNEO CO., LTD.

## NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

**THE FIFTEENTH YEARLY MEETING** of SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Buildings, at 11 A.M., on FRIDAY, the 17th May, 1918, to receive a Statement of Accounts to the 31st December, 1917, and the Report of the General Manager and Consulting Committee, and to elect a Consulting Committee and Auditor.  
 The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 4th May to the 17th May, 1918, both days inclusive.  
 THE CHINA-BORNEO CO., LTD.,  
 W. G. DARBY, General Manager. [1918]

## HOUSES TO LET

## TO LET.

**NO. 1, CARNARVON ROAD, Kowloon.** well-built EUROPEAN TWO-STOREY HOUSE, good locality.  
 Apply to—  
 YU KAM HING,  
 c/o Messrs. JOHNSON, STOKES & MASTER. [1918]

## TO LET.

**RESIDENTIAL FLAT** in Prince's Building.  
 Apply to—  
 THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., Ltd. [1918]

## TO LET.

**IMMEDIATE entry.** Four very desirable SHOPS, situated in Lee House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.  
 For rent and other particulars apply to—  
 THE MANAGER,  
 HONGKONG ICE Co., Ltd.,  
 40, Connaught Road Central. [1918]

## TO LET.

**HOUSES** on Shamoon, Canton.  
 No. 57, THE PEAK, LUSTLEIGH.  
 Apply to—  
 THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY Co., Ltd. [1918]

## TO LET.

**A FLAT** in Nathan Road, Kowloon.  
**FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES** in Kowloon.  
 Apply to—  
 HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE Co., Ltd.,  
 Alexandra Buildings. [1918]

## FOR SALE.

**66 GALESEND,** 108, THE PEAK, SIX ROOMS.  
 Apply—  
 C. H. GALE, F.W.D. [1918]

## FOR SALE.

**ON MOUNT PARISH, WANCHAI,** a well-built Four-Roomed House with Garden, Electric Light, Gas and Telephone installed. Apply to—  
 D. V. STEVENSON,  
 Messrs. DEACON, LOOKER, DEACON & HARSTON. [1918]

## INTIMATIONS

## PUBLIC AUCTION.

**MR. GEO. P. LAMBERT** has received instructions to sell by Public Auction, on TUESDAY, the 14th day of May, 1918, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, at his Sales Room in Dudley Street, Victoria, Hongkong,  
**THE VERY VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY,**  
 situate in Barker Road, at The Peak, and comprising those pieces or parcels of ground registered in the Land Office as **RURAL BUILDING LOT NUMBER 70** and **DAIRY DEN LOT NUMBER 24** together with the attractive residential house thereon known as

"TUSCULUM," and garden tennis court thereto attached, IN ONE LOT.  
 Rural Building Lot No. 70 contains an area of 23,780 square feet and is held under a Crown Lease for 75 years.  
 Garden Lot No. 24 contains an area of 7,800 square feet and is held under a Crown Lease for 21 years.  
 For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to—  
 Messrs. DEACON, LOOKER, DEACON & HARSTON,  
 1, Des Vaux Road, Central,  
 Vendors' Solicitors,  
 or to  
 Mr. GEO. P. LAMBERT,  
 The Auctioneer. [1918]

## G. E. NOTICE.

**ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian** desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 8 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.  
 Applicants will be required to produce Passport or identification papers.  
 All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE 1918.  
 Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.  
 The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50. [1918]

## DAIRY FARM NEWS.

## UNKET.

A most delicious wholesome Food easily prepared.

We supply Rennet Tablets.

## DEVONSHIRE CREAM.

Can now be had at our Depot. [1918]

## AMERICAN AND MANCHURIAN LINE.

## S.S. "CAPTO"

FROM NEW YORK.

**THE** above vessel having arrived, and that their cargo will be landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co., Ltd., whose delivery may be obtained.  
 All Broken, chafed and damaged goods will be examined on SATURDAY, the 11th May, at 8.30 A.M. All claims must be presented within a fortnight of Steamers arrival, otherwise they will not be recognized.  
 No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after noon the 14th inst. will be subject to sale.  
 No Fire Insurance whatever will be effected.  
 Consignees of Cargo must produce Import permit signed by the Superintendent of the Imports and Exports Office before Bills of Lading can be countersigned by  
**THE BANK LINE, LTD., Agents.**  
**AMERICAN & MANCHURIAN LINE**  
 Hongkong, 6th May, 1918. [1918]

## NOW READY.

## THE DIRECTORY AND CHRONICLE

CHINA, JAPAN, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, INDO-CHINA, PHILIPPINES, ETC.

1918

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ISSUE.

PRICE:  
 Large Edition ... .. \$11.00  
 Bridged ... .. 2.00

## INTIMATION

**WATSON'S**  
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**THE PREMIER SCOTCH OF THE FAR EAST FOR 25 YEARS.**



POPULARITY MAINTAINED

BY ITS

EXCELLENT QUALITY,

NOT BY EXPENSIVE

WORLD-WIDE ADVERTISING.

**A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,**

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS, HONGKONG.

TEL. 618. [1918]

## DEATH.

**BYRON.**—On May 6th, at Queen's Hospital, Honolulu, Andrew BRIZELL BYRON, aged 34. [1918]

Hongkong Office: 10A, Des Vaux Road, C. London Office: 121, FLEET STREET, E.C.

**The Daily Press.**

HONGKONG, 8TH MAY, 1918

## THE ENEMY PEACE OFFENSIVE

When Germany is in difficulties it is her practice to start a peace campaign. This has a three-fold object. It is intended to impress Neutrals with her sweet reasonableness, to create dissension in the ranks of the Allies, and to convince the people of Germany that their sufferings are due to the perversity of their foe. There are signs that this familiar device is about to be resorted to again—for the purpose, presumably, of disarming the malcontents in Germany and Austria-Hungary and reconciling the people to the costly failure of the enemy forces to achieve their object in France and Flanders. It is true that Mr. BALFOUR stated in the House of Commons on Monday that no peace-offers had been received recently, but that only proves that the Central Powers still prefer oblique to direct methods. Even when they have formulated proposals they have always been careful to avoid committing themselves to anything definite and precise, as witness the pious enunciation of principles that preceded the Brest-Litovsk Conference, and characterized the reply of the Kaiser to the Pore's Note, and of Count HERTING to President Wilson's statement of the Allies' war-aims. Germany finds vague generalities and subterranean schemes more convenient than specific statements and methods that are open and above-board. Therefore, we need not be surprised to learn that German peace-agents are busy in Neutral countries, or that the Pore is expected to issue a new appeal for peace. In this connection it may be recalled that an invitation was issued in March by three Scandinavian Prelates

to the Council of the French Protestant Federation to meet on the same lines, as those on which it had been proposed that the Socialists should meet at Stockholm. German emissaries in the guise of amiable neutrals are also reported to be visiting England at the instigation, it is believed, of Herr BALLIN and other German commercial and shipping magnates. Included amongst them is a friend of Baron von KUELMANN. Probably he is the Dutch financier who is said to have laid proposals semi-officially before various officials. Knowing that German militarism is anathema to the British people, these proposals are represented as emanating from the civil party in Germany, whose chance of obtaining ascendancy, it is declared, was destroyed by "our refusal to consider peace last year" with the consequence that "the most we can hope for now is a peace by arrangement." Skillfully as the hook is baited there is not the least danger that it will be swallowed by the British nation, for even Mr. RAMSAY MACDONALD and his brother pacifists have had the scales removed from their eyes by the "peace by arrangement" with Russia. The German Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs may accuse us of missing the psychological moment for making peace on several occasions, but he makes a profound mistake if he supposes that we have any wish to avail ourselves of the transient moods of his countrymen. What the Allies desire is an enduring peace, and there will be no prospect of that until Germany has settled convictions on the subject. They will say, with the French Protestant Federation, that to enter into relations, however indirect, with the men whose soldiers are firing on their sons and brothers and occupying sacred portions of Allied territory would deserve the application of a term that it is impossible for one group of Christians to use to another group of Christians. Whoever is guilty must be declared guilty, and Christianity will only become once more healthy and strong by loyally seeking out truth and defending it. It is not sufficient that hostilities should cease. Complete light must be shed on the causes of the war and the way in which it was declared. Good must be called good, and evil, evil. Every breach of the pledged word and every violation of international engagements must be condemned. It must be stated openly that force was never stronger than right.

During the 24 hours of Tuesday 5 cases of cerebro-spinal fever, and 4 deaths from the disease were notified in the Colony. All the sufferers were Chinese.

Mr. Peter Grant, formerly Chief Accountant of the International Bank in Hongkong, has been appointed to an important position under the Food Control Authorities at Home.

The Hon. Treasurer of St. George's Day Fund acknowledges, with thanks, receipt of the following donations:—Proceeds of Sweep per Tai Koo Rifle Club, \$138; Mr. W. A. Nowers, Wuchow, \$100.

The death of Mr. A. B. Bryson occurred at Honolulu on the 6th inst., from intestinal meningitis. Mr. Bryson, who was only 34 years of age, had resided in the Colony for about 12 years. At first in the employ of Messrs. Shaw, Tomes & Co., he later joined Messrs. A. B. Moulder & Co., and subsequently became a partner in Messrs. Banker & Company. He left Hongkong three weeks ago on the *Tenyo Maru* for a business trip to the United States and was then in the best of health. He leaves a wife and four children, for whom the greatest sympathy is felt. The body of the deceased will be brought to Hongkong for interment.

## THE FRAWLEY COMPANY.

Owing to the delay in the Frawley Company's arrival in Hongkong, the opening performance of the Company will not take place on Monday evening as originally advertised. It will probably be on Tuesday. There has been no alteration in the repertoire, except that the play arranged for Friday, May 17th, "Tiger Rose," will not now be presented. The opening production will be "The House of Glass," to be followed on subsequent evenings by "Cheating Cheaters," "The Boomerang," "The Rainbow," "It Pays to Advertise," etc.  
 Booking is now open at Messrs. Moutrie & Company, at the usual prices.

## CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

## THE SINO-JAPANESE NEGOTIATIONS.

PEKING, May 7th.

Respecting the Sino-Japanese negotiations it is understood that the Military Representatives have reached an agreement, which will be submitted to the Cabinet for approval and signature. The Japanese are insistent upon its immediate signature.

Influenced by telegrams from the Provinces, the Premier may publish a partial statement of the demands. Feeling is running high against the Premier.

## LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT.

While the Government forces have recovered a portion of the lost territory in the south, confidence in the Government has not increased. Changes may be expected at any moment.

## BOLSHEVIK ACTIVITY.

Telegrams received from the northern frontier report Bolsheviki activity.

## PROTECTION AGAINST BRIGANDS.

The trains on the Peking-Hankow Railway now include an armoured car with twenty soldiers for protection against brigands.

[THROUGH RUSSIA'S AGENCY.]

## THE NORTH AND SOUTH STRUGGLE.

JAPAN OFFERS TO MEDIATE.

LONDON, May 7th.

The *Times* Correspondent at Shanghai telegraphs that the Chinese Press state that Baron Hayashi, Japanese Minister at Peking, visited the Chinese Premier and offered Japan's mediation between the North and the South.

Baron Hayashi is going to Canton to interview the South.

## CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG HONG KONG" CAN. P.O.]  
 CANTON, May 8th.

**THE TUCHUN'S APPEAL FOR FUNDS.**  
 Owing to the depleted condition of the Treasury, the Tuchun requested the principal merchants to raise a loan of \$2,000,000 to meet military expenditures. We learn that he has been promised half of this amount. The new house-tax will come into force on June 1st, and two months' taxes have to be paid in advance.

**THE QUESTION OF PEACE.**  
 The Authorities have received a telegram from Shum Chun-huen (the mediator in Shanghai) stating that in spite of urgent solicitations the Central Government has decided to rely on force of arms up to the end, and Shum says that unless the South-West will give way, he despairs of peace.

**NORTHERN TROOPS IN KIANG-SI.**  
 It is reported that certain northern troops on the northern borders of Kiangsi have been defeated by Hunan troops. The situation on the northern borders of Kwangtung is easier, and the Canton forces are making progress.

## COMPANY REPORT.

## HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO., LTD.

The report of the Board of Directors to the 26th ordinary yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held on Saturday, states:—

The balance at credit of profit and loss account available for appropriation is \$384,106.89, and your directors recommend that this be disposed of as follows:—  
 To pay a dividend of \$2.25 per share on 60,000 shares ..... \$135,000.00  
 To pay a bonus of 75 cents per share ..... 45,000.00  
 To place to reserve ..... 100,000.00  
 To write off plant account for depreciation ..... 200,000.00  
 To write off new property account for depreciation ..... 70,000.00  
 To write off furniture account for depreciation ..... 563.55  
 To pay a bonus to staff ..... 12,500.43  
 To carry forward to next account ..... 121,042.89  
 \$884,106.89

The Hon. Mr. C. E. Anton having resigned on leaving the Colony, the Hon. Mr. D. Landale was invited to fill the vacancy. This appointment requires the confirmation of shareholders. In accordance with the Articles of Association, the Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and Hon. Mr. D. Landale retire, but being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.



# THE WAR.

## MEAGRE REPORTS FROM FLANDERS.

### ROUMANIA SIGNS PEACE TREATY.

## THE PALESTINE OPERATIONS. REQUIRE FULLER OFFICIAL EXPLANATION.

### Branco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.  
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### BRITISH FRONT. SUCCESSFUL RAIDS.

LONDON, May 7th.  
12.25 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We captured a few prisoners and three machine-guns in a successful raid in the neighbourhood of Neuville St. Vaast. Our casualties were slight. We repulsed a raid near Boyelles.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

#### SUCCESSFUL LOCAL OPERATION.

LONDON, May 6th.  
10.20 p.m.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—In a successful local operation during the night in the neighbourhood of Morlancourt we captured over 200 prisoners.

The French repulsed attempted raids southward of Loivre.

Reciprocal artillery firing continued all day on the battlefronts.

Our artillery caused several fires behind the enemy's lines northward of Lys.

#### LATEST CABLES.

#### ENEMY PREPARING ANOTHER BLOW.

LONDON, May 7th.  
4.10 p.m.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, states:—There was a terrific bombardment for two hours last night.

In connection with two raids, one by the enemy was unsuccessful, and the other, by the Canadians, is reported by Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig. The raiders reported that many of the enemy were killed and wounded in hand-to-hand fighting. Great destruction was wrought on the defence works.

Heavy rains are rendering the ground very bad for fighting.

Whilst there is no doubt that the enemy is preparing another violent blow, we are correspondingly ready to meet it.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

#### GERMAN REPORT.

LONDON, May 6th.

A wireless German official report states:—A local enemy attack southward of Loivre failed. We captured some prisoners during reconnoitring engagements near Hangard and south-westward of Brimont, also with the Americans south-westward of Blamont, and with the French at Hartmannswillerkopf.

#### LATEST CABLES.

#### FRENCH FRONT.

#### UNIMPORTANT OPERATIONS.

PARIS, May 7th.

A communique states:—There was reciprocal artillery firing north and south of the Aves.

An enemy raid on a small post west of Hangard failed.

We brought back prisoners in a local operation in the same region.

#### EARLIER CABLES.

#### ENEMY SHELLS AMERICAN SECTOR.

PARIS, May 6th.

The Germans yesterday violently bombarded the American sector in Picardy with gas-shells and high-explosives. The American artillery vigorously replied.

#### ARTILLERY ACTIVITY.

PARIS, May 7th.

A communique states:—There was somewhat great reciprocal artillery firing north and south of the Aves.

### Naval Activities.

LATEST CABLES.  
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### THE ATTACK ON ZEEBRUGGE. "A FANTASTICALLY AUDACIOUS STROKE."

LONDON, May 7th.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung*, commenting upon the British attack at Zeebrugge, says:—"It would be foolish to deny that the British Fleet scored a great success through a fantastically audacious stroke in penetrating one of the most important strongholds over which floats the German flag. However unpleasant it may be, we may frankly admit that enemy ships actually entered the port of Zeebrugge, and that being so, there is no reason why they should not achieve a similar feat at other times. It therefore behoves our Naval Command to be on the alert, for we have to deal with an antagonist of remarkable boldness."

#### EARLIER CABLES.

#### SPANISH STEAMER TORPEDOED.

BARCELONA, May 7th.

The survivors of the torpedoed Spanish steamer *Luisa* have arrived. The vessel was attacked while following armed Allied vessels. The *Luisa* sank in three minutes. Three stokers were killed. The British patrol-boats picked up the survivors.

#### The Near East.

EARLIER CABLES.  
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### THE PALESTINE CAMPAIGN. BRITISH ADVANCED TROOPS WITHDRAWN.

LONDON, May 6th.

A Palestine official report states:—Our advanced troops holding Essalt have withdrawn. Subsequently the bulk of our troops were withdrawn over the Jordan. Strong detachments remain on the eastern bank, securing the crossings. We captured eastward of the Jordan between April 30th and May 4th one German and 45 Turkish officers and 42 Germans and 843 Turks of other ranks, 29 machine-guns, 6 motor-lorries, and inflicting casualties exceeding ours.

King Hedjaz's forces on May 3rd attacked Turkish parties working at Wadi Jerdun railway station, northward of Maan, capturing 25 prisoners and seriously damaging the line.

#### REQUIRES FULLER OFFICIAL EXPLANATION.

LONDON, May 7th.

The *Times*, commenting upon General Allenby's communique, says the fact remains that we have twice pushed east from the Jordan, and each time we have been compelled to withdraw. It is clear that the enemy on this front is increasing in strength, and the whole problem of the Palestine advance requires a fuller official explanation than it has hitherto received.

#### Aerial Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.  
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### NAVAL AIR FORCE OPERATIONS.

#### DIRECT HITS ON VARIOUS TARGETS.

LONDON, May 6th.

The Admiralty announces that between April 29th and May 5th our air force contingents from Dunkirk carried out bombing operations at Ostend, Westende, Zeebrugge Mole, lock-gates, seaplane base and shipping in the vicinity, and directly hit the Mole, seaplane base and the docks at Zeebrugge. One of our machines was not returned. During offensive patrols we destroyed one enemy machine and drove down another.

### General.

LATEST CABLES.  
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

#### ROUMANIA SIGNS PEACE TREATY.

LONDON, May 7th.

A Roumanian communique states:—The Peace Treaty between Roumania and Austria, Germany, Turkey and Bulgaria was signed at Bucharest this morning. The text of the Treaty will be published shortly.

#### AFFAIRS IN RUSSIA.

#### REMARKABLE RESTORATION OF ORDER.

LONDON, May 7th.

The *Times* Correspondent at Christiania states that, according to news from Russia, through independent Swedish and Dutch channels, the rumours of the overthrow of the Bolshevik Government are unfounded. They were probably due to the development of the Soviet Administration in a moderate direction. M. Trotsky's advocacy of compulsory work has resulted in the People's Commissioners being compelled to fight the anarchists, just as Kerensky's Government had to fight the Bolsheviks. Next to the establishment of a new Army the most reassuring feature is that the officials of the Kerensky regime have resumed work. This has resulted in a remarkable restoration of order, especially in the distribution of food, stuffs. Many things which no amount of exhortation and speechifying could formerly induce the people to do are now being done under the inspiration of a steadily growing hatred on the part of the Russian nation for the German oppressor.

#### ALLIES' FAITH IN RUSSIA'S FUTURE.

The *Times*, commenting upon the above dispatch, says:—"The Allies, whose faith in the future of the Russian people has never failed, must welcome every sign of a change of feeling with gratification and hope. The spectacle of the German diplomats distorting 'self-determination' and 'no annexation' into a wholesale dismemberment of Russia and the fate of Ukraine are object lessons in German good faith and amity, which make the revulsion of feeling among the Russians not surprising. It is the plain duty of the well-wishers of Russia on both sides of the Atlantic to give the Russian people all the assistance in their power in the great work of national reconstruction. Such assistance must have no interests in view but those of Russia herself, and the principles for which democracies are banded together. Russia is a necessary partner in the League of Nations, and it is gratifying to know that the only one of the Allies able to afford assistance promptly and effectually at present is also willing to afford it. Baron Goto's recent statement makes it clear that Japan would not refuse to undertake the duty if properly approached. No Government and no people in Europe or America ever dreamed of giving orders to the Japanese. On the contrary, all the Allies and America are well aware that if Japan undertook such a mission she would do so under the inspiration of an elevated and far-sighted policy."

#### AMERICAN CONSUL-GENERAL'S DEATH.

MOSCOW, May 7th.

The American Consul-General has died suddenly. Russian doctors at first diagnosed his death as having resulted from poisoning, but subsequently they certified death was due to hemorrhage of the brain.

#### FRANCE RENOUNCES SOME COMMERCIAL CONVENTIONS.

PARIS, May 7th.

The Cabinet has renounced all Commercial Conventions containing a general clause regarding most-favoured nations. This is regarded as a further economic menace against Germany.

*Le Matin*, concerning this, emphasises the diplomatic importance of the threat to exclude Germany from the markets of the world.

### GERMAN TREATMENT OF WAR-PRISONERS.

LONDON, May 7th.

Reuter's Correspondent at American Headquarters in France states:—An escaped French war-prisoner states that he saw at Hamelin, in Hanover, an American war-prisoner who had worked for three months in the Harz salt-mines. He was incredibly thin and so weak that he could not cross the room without stopping, repeatedly leaning on the furniture. The American stated that no parcels had been sent to the mines. Prisoners received practically nothing but thin soup, sometimes eggs and fish which were impossible to eat, potatoes and bread were very scarce, and it was impossible to work without becoming sick or weakened to the point of falling. Punishments include beating with a rifle-butt or bayonet, and imprisonment in a dark super-heated cell, after which the men are forced to stand to attention for a certain time in the snow. Deaths were frequent. An Englishman and a Frenchman whom the narrator saw at Hamelin were too weak to hold a cigarette.

### THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE.

#### UKRAINE GOVERNMENT PROTESTS.

LONDON, May 7th.

A message from Moscow, dated May 4th, states that the Ukrainian Government has sent to Berlin a Note of protest, indicating that it will resign unless the German Government recalls several officials, including the Military Commander, von Eichhorn, and Ambassador Se warzenstein.

#### MAKING THE BEST OF A BAD JOB.

LONDON, May 7th.

The position in Ukraine is most obscure, as the reports of the happenings there have so far been received from German sources.

The German papers contend that General Skoropadski is pro-German, and was a frequent visitor to Germany, but Mr. Harold Williams, the Russian expert, in an article in the *Daily Chronicle*, says that from what he knows of the personality of the new Ukrainian Government it is distinctly anti-German, and is trying to make the best of a bad job. He says General Skoropadski is a soldier, and is wholly innocent of politics. The new Premier, M. Vasilenko, is a Cadei who was convinced of the necessity of a union with Russia.

#### SANCTITY OF RADA VIOLATED.

The *Daily News* Correspondent at Moscow, describing the scene in the Rada on April 24th, says the Germans surrounded the building. A German lieutenant walked to the President's chair while the troops entered. The lieutenant shouted "Hands up. Sit still." Then he called the names of certain Ministers, one of whom answered and was arrested. The Correspondent says von Eichhorn's order proclaiming martial law was the result of a series of peasant risings, making it unsafe for Germans to move about. Whole trains of food en route to Germany were frequently seized by bands of revolutionaries.

#### GERMANY'S DIPLOMATIC VICTORY IN HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM, May 6th.

Commenting on the Foreign Minister's statement on the 5th inst., the *Maas Daghcheit* says that German diplomacy has won in Holland a success similar to that which General Hoffmann and Field-Marshal von Eichhorn won daily in the East.

The journal complains that Jonkheer London's statement is obscure regarding the Dutch control over the German traffic on the Limburg railway.

#### VISCOUNT FRENCH'S SUCCESSOR.

LONDON, May 7th.

The *Daily Chronicle* says it is anticipated that General Sir William Robertson will succeed Viscount French in the Home Command.

### REIT UNREST IN AUSTRIA MODIFIED SIEGE PREVAILS.

LONDON, May 6th.

A telegram from Vienna shows that the crisis is more acute. Great unrest continues owing to the adjournment of Parliament.

The Slav members of the Cabinet have resigned.

It is doubtful whether Premier von Seidler will be able to restore order in the Slav districts in the south, where a modified siege prevails.

#### A SIGN OF ABSOLUTISM.

LONDON, May 7th.

A telegram from Zurich states that von Seidler has ordered the prosecution of the organisers of the demonstration at Prigau on May 1st in favour of the creation of a Czech-Slovak State. One hundred thousand Czechs have since presented a petition demanding to be prosecuted.

The Socialist newspapers in Vienna say that the Committee of the Socialist party and the Committee of the German Socialist Deputies' Club have decided to issue a manifesto to the workers urging them to be in readiness to fight the re-establishment of absolutism, of which the adjournment of the Reichstag is a sign.

The *Arbeiter Zeitung* warns von Seidler that he is on the brink of a precipice and that the unrest of the Southern Slavs is due to the proposed partition of Bohemia on national lines.

### INCREASED POSTAL RATES.

LONDON, May 6th.

In the House of Commons, the Bill authorising that the postal rates (mentioned on April 22nd) be increased passed its second reading. The letter rates do not apply to soldiers serving abroad. The Postmaster-General estimated that the extra letter charge to the Dominions and Colonies will produce £140,000 annually.

### AUSTRALIA SOLVES MAN-POWER PROBLEM.

LONDON, May 7th.

The *Daily Mail's* Correspondent at Sydney telegraphs that the Military Authorities have decided to cease employing for service in Australia men who are fit for service abroad, and as a result of two years' public agitation a rigorous cordon-out is now proceeding. Every man who has not seen active service is being medically examined, and those who joined for general service will be sent abroad. The action of the Authorities is widely approved, as tending to remove a condition which has prejudiced recruiting.

### IN A TANGLE OF RED TAPE.

#### WHAT MR. HODGE WANTS FROM THE TREASURY.

"When I read, in one of Dickens' novels, about the Circumlocution Office, I thought it was much overdrawn. Since I became one of His Majesty's Ministers I have come to the conclusion that Dickens was right," said Mr. John Hodge, Minister of Pensions, in the course of a speech at Worcester, recently.

"The Chancellor of the Exchequer is a man of wide human sympathies," remarked Mr. Hodge, in touching on some of the difficulties of his department. "I have not asked him for anything yet that I have not received—but the Treasury are different. They always turn me down, but because of my persistency they have had to turn me up."

"Unfortunately, they do not see eye to eye with me on the question of children. You who have any knowledge of the work of boards of guardians know that you cannot keep an orphan child under 12s a week. Why should I not get as much as that for the soldier's child?"

"The children are one of our greatest national assets. I want the children looked after especially the soldiers' children. I feel confident that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will not turn me down. Politicians cannot turn me down—they dare not; the whole country is behind me so far as a proposal of this character is concerned."

"I am anxious to obtain more powers. I told the Chancellor of the Exchequer that I had authority without power. I cannot give my typist five shillings a week rise without going to the Treasury for sanction. If they will give me power with authority I am satisfied that the Pensions Ministry will do very much better work."

Mr. Hodge strongly denounced the practice of doctors asking disabled men about their means and earnings. "It does not matter," he said, "if a man is making a hundred pounds a week, that has nothing to do with his pension."

### THE LOST CITY OF CONSTANZA.

ROUMANIA'S NATIONAL PORT.

Under the conditions now imposed on Roumanian by the Central Powers, the city of Constanza, together with the whole province of the Dobruja, will be ceded to Bulgaria.

It has been surmised that the Central Powers intend to offer the lost province of Bessarabia to Roumanian in compensation—an intention apparently indicated by one feature of the Peace Treaty. Such an arrangement would have been welcomed by the past generation of Roumanians as an act of historical retribution; they would gladly have surrendered the Dobruja, with its mixed population, in order to recover their lost land and kin in Bessarabia. But the Kustenje of their days was very different from the Constanza of to-day. Immense sums have been spent on the development of the national port; its rapid progress has been watched with pride by the entire nation, and its loss, though only regarded as a temporary sacrifice, felt as a bitter humiliation by all Roumanians.

When, in January, 1878, Russia announced her intention to resume possession of that portion of Bessarabia which had been assigned to Moldavia by the Treaty of Paris in 1856, and to compensate Roumanian by allowing her to annex the delta of the Danube and the northern portion of the Dobruja, no little indignation prevailed at Bucharest. Every effort was made to obtain a reversal of their decision, which, however, received the sanction of Europe at Berlin in the following July.

It was necessary to accept the inevitable, and Roumanian had to make the best of her new acquisition, which at least brought her the advantage of a considerable extent of sea-coast, with the as yet undeveloped ports of Sulina, Constanza, and Mangalia. Of these Sulina was soon to become a place of considerable importance owing to the great engineering works in the central arm of the delta designed by the genius of Sir Charles Harleley, and carried out under his superintendence. Mangalia, with its large and deep inlet, was capable of being transformed into a great naval port affording accommodation for a more numerous fleet than Roumanian was ever likely to possess.

Constanza, at the time of the annexation of the Dobruja, was little more than a fishing village with a population of about 2,000. It was originally a Greek colony, and owed its former name of Tomi, according to the legend, to the terrible crime of the enchantress Medea, who, flying across the Black Sea from the Court of her father, King Colchis, murdered her young brother Apsyrtus, whom she had brought with her, and cutting his body in pieces, scattered the fragments on the waves in order to arrest her father's pursuit. The King, overwhelmed with horror, stopped the course of his ship in order to pick up the pieces, and he and them on the neighbouring shore.

In the time of Constantine the Great, the fortunes of Constanza revived, and again in the Middle Ages it became a place of commercial importance under the Genoese. Under the blight of Turkish rule its prosperity declined.

#### A LINK IN THE ORIENT CHAIN.

In recent years, however, Constanza has made remarkable progress, especially since the establishment of railway communication with Moldavia and Wallachia by the construction of the great bridge over the Danube at Tchernavoda in 1895. Since then a spacious harbour has been enclosed by long breakwaters; on the quays have arisen great silos for the storage of grain and reservoirs for petroleum. The port will eventually be connected with the oilfields by a pipeline. Up to the outbreak of war Roumanian lines of steamers, as well as those of the Austrian-Lloyd, connected Constanza with the principal ports of the Black Sea and the Levant, while a fast-maritime service to Constantinople supplemented the overland Orient Express route via Belgrade and Sofia.

With the growth of its commercial activity the town has increased rapidly extending beyond the little peninsula which formed its original site, and spreading along the coast to the north. It has become a place of resort in the summer season; some fine hotels have been built on the promontory, as well as a large casino, which was wont to provide the fashionable world with amusement in the shape of bacarat and roulette, and like the sister establishment at Sinaia, maintained a thriving existence in the face of apparently prohibitive taxation. For sea-bathing there is a magnificent beach at Mamaia, a little to the north of the town, while to the south, at Tekir-Ghioul, accommodation is provided for those who desire to take mud baths, an excellent specific for rheumatism. Apart from the influx of summer visitors Constanza before its capture in 1918 reckoned some 35,000 inhabitants.

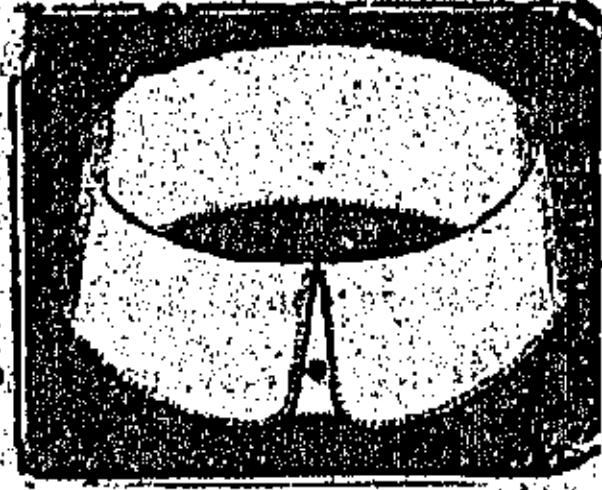
#### GOOD TRADE AFTER THE WAR.

Mr. G. H. Roberts, Minister of Labour, speaking recently at Manchester, declared that there was every reason to believe that trade after the war would be good. Some industries had already booked orders for five years ahead. Orders, however, were useless unless materials were available, and the acquisition of material was going to be a matter of extreme urgency. Great Britain and her Allies controlled the greater share of these materials, and unless they took the fullest advantage of their position they would be neglectful of their duty to themselves and to the world in general.



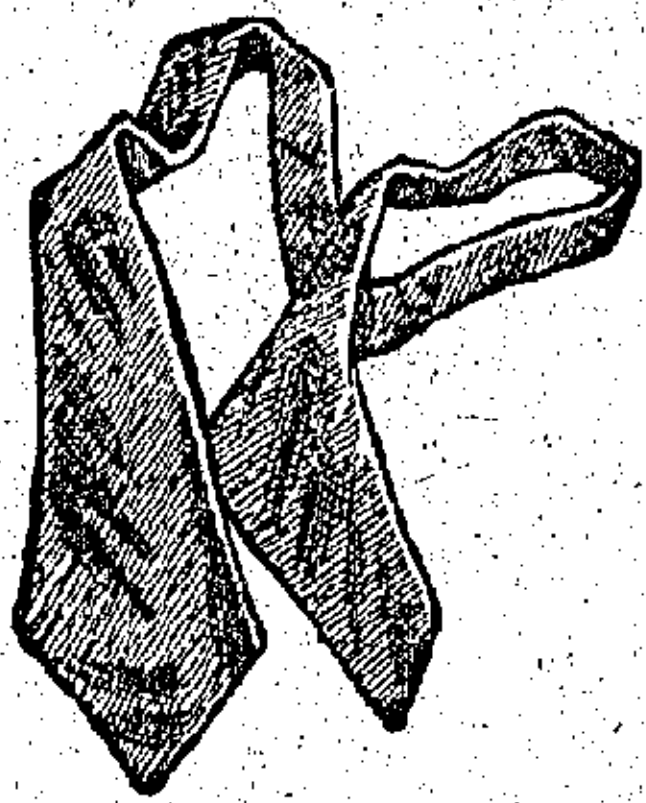


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### THE LEAGUE OF FREE NATIONS.

SOME INDEPENDENT OPINIONS.  
ITS POSSIBLE CONSTITUTION.

[BY H. G. WELLS.]

More and more frequently does one hear this phrase, the League of Nations, used as expressing the outline idea of the new world that will come out of the war. There can be no doubt that the phrase has taken hold of the imagination of great multitudes of people, that it is one of those creative phrases that may alter the whole destiny of mankind. But at present it is still a very vague phrase, a cloudy promise of peace.

I make no apology, therefore, for attempting a discussion of it in the most general terms. There is no advantage in adopting a highly technical and experienced tone with a question still in the school debating society stage. The idea is an idea of united human effort to put an end to wars; the question is, how far can we hope to get to a concrete realization of that?

But first let me note the fourth word in the title of this article. The common talk is of a "League of Nations," merely. I follow a man who is more than any other man, the leader of English political thought throughout the world to-day, President Wilson, in inserting that significant adjective "Free." We Western Allies know to-day what is involved in making bargains with Governments that do not stand for their peoples; we have had all our Russian deal, for example, repudiated and thrust back upon our hands; and it is clearly in the mind of all reasonable men, that no mere "scrap of paper" with just a Kaiser's or a Chancellor's endorsement is a good enough earnest of fellowship in the League. It cannot be a diplomatic League. The League of Nations, if it is to have any such effect as people seem to expect of it, must be "understandable of the people"; that is to say, it must be supported by sustained, deliberate explanation and teaching by School and Church, and Press of the whole mass of all the peoples concerned. We must, beside once for all any possible misconception that this modern idea of a League of Nations has any affinity to that Holy Alliance of the diplomats who set out to keep the peace of Europe so disastrously a century ago.

And in a later paper I will discuss what should be the powers of this League. The suggestions made range from a mere advisory body, rather like the Hague Convention, which will merely pronounce on the rights and wrongs of any international conflict, to the idea of a sort of Super-State, a Parliament of Mankind, practically taking over the sovereignty of the existing States and Empires of the world. Most people's ideas of the League fall between these extremes. They want the League to be something more than an ethical court; they want a League that will act, but on the other hand they shrink from any loss of "our independence."

There is a conflict here and a real need for people to tidy up their ideas. We cannot eat our cake and have it. If association is worth while there must be some sacrifice of freedom to association. As a very distinguished Colonial representative said to me the other day: "Here we are talking of the freedom of small nations and the self-determination of peoples and at the same time of the Council of the League of Nations and all sorts of international controls. Which do we want?"

The answer, I think, is "Both." It is a matter of more or less, of buying the best thing by giving up the second best. Self-determination does not necessarily mean fragmentation. We may want to relax an old association in order to make a newer, better one. It is quite understandable that people aware of a distinctive national character and involved in some big existing political complex should wish to disentangle themselves from one group of associations in order to enter more effectively into another, a greater and more satisfactory one. The Finn or the Pole who has hitherto been a reluctant member of the synthesis of the Russian Empire may well wish to end that attachment in order to become a free member of a world-wide brotherhood. The desire for such a re-arrangement is not a desire for chaos. There is such a thing as untangling your parcels in order to pack them better, and I do not see myself how we can possibly contemplate a great league of freedom and reason in the world without a considerable amount of such preliminary dissolution.

It happens, very fortunately for the world, that a century and a quarter ago thirteen various and very jealous States worked out the problem of Union, and became after an enormous, exhausting wrangle of nine or ten years, the United States of America. Now the way they solved their riddle was by keeping their sovereign rights absolutely. They remained sovereign States. New York, Virginia, Massachusetts, for example, remained legally independent nations.

That is a precedent that everyone who talks about the League of Nations should bear in mind. These States set up a Congress and President in Washington with strictly delegated powers. That Congress and President they delegated to look after certain common interests, to deal with inter-State trade, to deal with foreign Powers, to maintain a supreme court of law. Everything else, education, militia, powers of life and death, the States retained for themselves. To this day, for instance, the Government at Washington has no power to interfere to protect the lives or property of aliens in any part of the Union outside its own district of Columbia. Elsewhere the State Governments see to that. And these States of the American Union were so independent-spirited that they would not even adopt a common name. To this day they have no common name. We have to call them Americans—which is a ridiculous name when we consider that Canada, Mexico, Peru, Brazil are all of them also in America. Or else, we must call them Virginians, Californians, New Englanders, and so forth.

Now that clearly is what will have to be done also with this Council of the

League of Nations. That Council will be a bit as strong, we hope, if not so close and multiplex as the tie of the States at Washington. It will have certain delegated powers and no others, probably far fewer powers than the Federal Government of the United States of America. It will have, directly or indirectly, all the powers that seem necessary to restrain the world from war, and unless I know nothing of patriotic jealousies, it will have not a scrap of power more. The danger is much more that its powers will be insufficient than that they will be excessive. But of that later. What I want to discuss here now is the constitution of this delegated body. I want to discuss that first in order to set aside out of the discussion certain fantastic notions that will otherwise get very seriously in our way. Fantastic as they have played a large part in reducing the Hague Tribunal to an ineffective squeak amid the thunders of this war.

A number of gentlemen scheming out world unity in studies have begun their proposals with the simple suggestion that each sovereign Power should send one member to the projected parliament of mankind. This has a pleasant democratic air: one sovereign State, one vote. Now let us run over a list of sovereign States and see to what this leads us. We find our list includes the British Empire, with a population of four hundred millions, of which probably half can read and write some language or other; Bogota with a population of a million, mostly poets; Hayti with a population of a million and a third, almost entirely illiterate and liable at any time to further political disruption; Andorra with a population of four or five thousand souls. The mere suggestion of equal representation between such "Powers" is enough to make the British Empire burst into a thousand (voting) fragments. A certain concession to population one must admit, was made by the theorists; a dozen or three or three millions, got, if I remember rightly, two delegates, and if over twenty, three, and some of the small States were given a kind of intermittent appearance—they only came every other time or something of that sort; but at the Hague things still remained in such a posture that three or four minute and backward States could out-vote the British Empire or the United States. Therein lies the clue to the insignificance of the League. Such projects as these are idle projects, and must put them out of our heads; the great nations will not suffer them for a moment.

At the risk of seeming a bit of a Prussian, I would like to insist upon certain brute facts. The business of the League of Nations is to keep the peace of the world and nothing else. No Power will ever dare to break the peace of the world if all the Powers that are capable of making war under modern conditions say "No." And there are only four Powers certainly capable at the present time of producing the men and materials needed for a modern war, in sufficient abundance to go on fighting, namely, Britain, France, Germany, and the United States; and there are four other which are probably capable, Italy, Japan, Austria, and (I) Russia. Some day China may be war-capable—I hope never, but it is a possibility.

Personally I do not think that any other Power on earth would have a ghost of a chance to resist the will—if it could be an honestly united will—of the first named four. All the rest fight by the sanction of and by association with these leaders. These Powers can fight because of the split will of the war-completing Powers. Some are forced to fight by that very division. No one can vie with me in my appreciation of the civilisation of Switzerland, Sweden, or Holland, but the plain fact of the case is that such Powers are absolutely incapable of uttering an effective protest against war. Far less so are your Haytis and Liberia. The preservation of the world peace rests, therefore, with the Great Powers and the great Powers alone. If they have the will for peace, it is peace. If they have not, it is conflict.

The Powers I have named above can dictate the peace of the world for ever. Let us keep our grip on that. Peace is their business primarily. They can give an enduring peace to the little nations and the whole of mankind. It can arrive in no other way. So I take it that the Council of a practical League of Nations must consist chiefly of the representatives of the great belligerent Powers and that the representatives of the minor allies and of the neutrals—essential though their presence will be—must not be allowed to swamp the voices of these larger masses of mankind.

And this state of affairs, in which a Council of the great Powers will dictate and maintain peace, may come about more easily than logical, statistical-minded people may be disposed to think. We think of somebody, learned and "expert," somebody in spectacles, with a thin clear voice, reading over the "Proposed Constitution of a League of Nations" to an attentive and respectful Peace Congress. But there is a more natural way to a league than that. Instead of being made like a machine, the League of Nations may grow like a tree. The Peace Congress that must sooner or later meet may itself become after a time the Council of a League of Nations. I am strongly obsessed by the idea that that Peace Congress will necessarily be called together at a time when it is highly desirable that it should become a more prolonged and persistent gathering. Why should it not become at length a permanent gathering, inviting representatives to aid its deliberations from the neutral States?

I can conceive no such Peace Congress as those that have settled up after other wars settling up after this war. Not only has the war been enormously bigger than any other war, but it has struck deeper at the foundations of social and economic life. I doubt if we begin to realise how much of the old system is dead to-day, how much has to be remade. Since the beginnings of history there has been a credible promise of gold payments underneath our financial arrangements. It is now an incredible promise. The value of a pound note waves about while you look at it. What will happen to it when peace comes no man can tell. The trouble has gone into the abyss. Our giddy money specialists clutch their

(Continued as foot of next column.)

### UNDER THE BLACK FLAG. STORIES OF THE BRUTAL U-BOAT

Behind the statistical table of losses of merchant ships each week there are some strange incidents of German brutality which ought not to be allowed to hide themselves in the secrecy of an affidavit filed in an official cabinet. Here are a few recent examples.

A little coasting steamer was torpedoed and sank in three minutes. One of her boats was capsized and those in it thrown into the water. The second officer and three hands swam to the overturned boat and scrambled on it. The submarine came up and ordered them to come on board. It was impossible to obey, but the submarine came back again after prowling round, and the commander repeated his order roughly. Still the little group, clinging desperately to the capsized boat refused to swim across the broken water.

The submarine went off, but the commander's lust for prisoners was such that he returned a third time and ordered the officer in charge of the boat to stand upright. No one moved. The German, furious at this defiance, and unable to get at his intended victims, went full speed ahead and put his helm hard over. The resultant wash swept all the men from their precarious hold.

After a great struggle all got back save one, and he was carried by the suction right under the upturned boat. He could not release himself, and it seemed that he must suffocate until one of his comrades, thought of taking the plug out of the bottom of the boat. Through the small air hole thus provided the imprisoned man was able to breathe until many hours afterwards, they were all picked up by a patrol vessel.

#### SUBMARINE SPIES.

Whether the U-boat spy system is good or not they are always eager for information from their victims, and not too particular about the way they exert it. A coloured seaman from one torpedoed ship was ordered to swim from a raft on which he had found refuge to the submarine. As soon as he reached the side he was seized by the wrists and firmly held while he was interrogated, and when the commander was satisfied that there was nothing more to be learned from him he was ordered to dive over the side and swim back to the raft—if he could.

Here is a little scene of tragedy in the night. A ship was torpedoed at 10.20 p.m., and seven people from her managed to get to an upturned boat and cling to it. One of them stayed only a few seconds. He took of his lifebelt and said he was "going to finish it." He slid off the boat and was never seen again. Then, out of the darkness, a searchlight flashed on the little pile of helpless human "fotsam." It was from the submarine. The cold white beam swept slowly round, lighting up bobbing heads in the water.

The officers and some of the crew stood on the deck and conning tower. But the searchlight was not turned on so that they might see to help the victims of their attack. It was used to light up the scene that they might enjoy it. They were jeering at those they were about to leave to sink or swim as fortune should decide. There are affidavits sworn to it by those who heard them jeer.

handfuls of paper and watch it flying down the steep. Much as we hate the Germans, some of us will have to sit down with some of the enemy to arrange a common scheme for the preservation of credit in money. And I presume that it is not proposed to end this war in a wild scramble of buyers for such food as remains in the world. There is a shortage now, a greater shortage ahead of the world, and there will be shortages of supply at the source and transport in food and all raw materials for some years to come.

The Peace Congress will have to sit and organise a share-out and distribution and re-organisation of these shattered supplies. It will have to Rhonda the nations. Then there are such little jobs as the reconstruction of Belgium and Serbia. There are numerous boundaries to rearrange. There is Poland, Armenia. About all these smaller States, new and old, that the peace must call into being, there must be a system of guarantees of the most difficult and complicated sort. I do not see the Peace Congress getting through such matters as these in a session of weeks or months. The idea the Germans betrayed at Brest, that things were going to be done in the Versailles fashion by great moustached heroes springing surprises, frowning and drawing lines with a large black, soldierly thumbnail across maps, is old fashioned. From first to last the peace negotiations are going to follow unprecedented courses.

This preliminary discussion of War Aims, that has been getting more and more explicit now for six months, is quite unprecedented. Apparently all the broad preliminaries are to be stated and accepted in the sight of all mankind before even an armistice occurs on the main, the western, front. The German diplomats hate this process. (So do a lot of ours. So do some of the diplomatic Frenchmen.) They are dodging and lying, they are fighting desperately to keep back everything they possibly can for the bargaining and trickery and table-laying of the council chamber, but that way there is no peace. And when at last Germany says "Snip" sufficiently to the Allies "Snap," and the Peace Congress begins, it will almost certainly be as unprecedented as its prelude. Before it meets, the broad lines of the settlement will have been drawn plainly with the approval of the mass of mankind.

This League of Nations we all desire may be really latent in the Peace Congress, and may be developed out of the Peace Congress. If this is right, then it is of supreme importance for us to get clear ideas of just exactly what sort of representation we want at the Peace Congress. The sort of men who go to the Peace Congress will almost certainly determine the character of the Council of the League of Nations that may arise out of it. If we send the wrong sort of man without a proper support behind him in the country the Peace Congress may prove our supreme failure to meet the needs of this great time.—Daily Mail.

### THE VICISSITUDES OF KUT-EL-AMARA.

Towards the end of 1914 Shlomo Naaba was a prosperous jeweller of Kut-el-Amara. His family, that is to say, his daughter, a girl of sixteen, and his two sons, were justly proud of the little one shop at the corner of the main bazaar, which ran at right angles to the river bank, though the myriads of flies, the darkness of the shop, and the various odours that permeated the precincts, somewhat detracted from the value of its convenient situation.

He was on the whole a happy man. His brother-in-law owned a portion of the date grove on which the 600 houses comprising the town, were tucked snugly away, some ground where he cultivated wheat, oats, maize and barley, and was in fact occasionally addressed as "Khawja," a little equivalent to our "Esquire" and meaning "a man of property." His brother owned a shop a few doors off, where he traded in the exportation of local-made carpets and woollen rugs, sending them by caravan to the Kurdish towns of Jassin and Bedrin.

Possibly his only worry was the tyranny he received at the hands of the Turkish officer who commanded some 200 troops, quartered in the tracks of the west end of the town, for the sole purpose of keeping in order the Beni Lam tribesmen who roamed over the desert towards Pusht-i-Kuh and made the caravan route from Shuster and Dizful along the foot of the hills insecure. Making jewellery for no payment was not profitable. Shlomo's recreations were simple. Every three or four days he would go to the river bank and watch the arrival and departure of the river steamers en route to Baghdad or Basrah and take a keen interest in the rich men who could afford to pay the equivalent of Rs.3 for a deck passage over the 220 miles of river to Baghdad. The majority of these men could well afford it, as they were engaged in the grain traffic, of which the centre was Kut, whither corn from the Euphrates country was brought by way of the Shatt-el-Arabi for distribution in the Tigris region. He had been in Baghdad once, but not being well off, and having certain goods to take with him, he had gone by the 120 miles of dusty road on the left bank of the winding river, and had returned by the "Saffina," or country boat. He occasionally called on the Harbour Master, or Customs house official, and once a fortnight accompanied his wife and daughter to the Turkish Baths on the river front, a curious building on the roof of which a bullock worked day after day at the cranking engine used to provide the necessary water. Being not allowed to use the Turkish bath himself, and usually went to see his friend, a clerk employed in the Liquorice Factory over the right bank of the river, going and returning by the bridge of boats. He visited regularly the one and only synagogue, situated near the mosque with its blue-tiled minaret.

In short, Shlomo Naaba was one of the ordinary, 8,000 peace-loving inhabitants, Kurds, Jews, Shiah Arabs, and emigrants from Persia, who had settled in the sleepy, and unimportant little town of Kut-el-Amara. Little did he think that in far distant lands, men whose profession was war were thinking of his native town, by reason of its strategic situation at the junction of the river Hal with the Tigris, and the consequent waterway communication to Nasirayah on the Euphrates. He never for a moment supposed that the name Kut-el-Amara would resound throughout the civilised world. He had heard, it is true, from Hajji Abbas and his two sons, prominent members of the community, that war had been declared by Germany, but took little interest in the information until he saw Turkish troops and guns being conveyed on barges down river to Basrah. Living in the headquarters of a Kaza he was able to see a good deal of what went on.

Shlomo will certainly never forget the Jewish years of 5676 and 5677 corresponding to our 1915 and 1916, during which the British troops took possession of all the country between Kut and the sea, the great battle below Kut, when General Townshend defeated General Nureddin and drove him back on Ctesiphon, how General Townshend and his wonderful soldiers came back to Kut, the ghastly experiences of the 129 days of the siege, and how the British had to surrender through hunger alone, the Turkish occupation of the town and his flight to Baghdad at the beginning of 1917. After the British occupation of Baghdad, he heard that Kut had been entirely evacuated, and that with its houses crashed to the ground by the bombardment, the big bazaar blown to atoms, and by the obliteration of the liquorice factory it resembled the "abomination of desolation" about which he had read in his religious books.

Later he heard that the British were rebuilding Kut and ventured to pay it a visit in August, 1917. To his intense astonishment he found that the rebuilding of the river front and main bazaar had been complete and that the shops were already being occupied. Saddlers, smiths, jewellers, and dyers were returning and again settling down to their former trades and occupations. Houses were being repaired, and the new main road, Townshend Road, traversing the whole length of the town had been laid out. British sailors were putting in order the cemetery and a new brick wall was being built around it. The police, occupied mainly on blockade work, patrolled the town by night, and kept peace and order in the bazaars by day. Kurd labourers had returned, farmers were being helped by the British Government with their "Shitwi" crops and granted normal weather conditions large quantities of grain would be produced. Shlomo determined to settle down and sent to Baghdad for his wife and family. Shlomo Naaba has little time for reminiscence these days. He has taken over the land of his brother-in-law, who died during the siege, and is looking after the carpet business of his brother, who is missing; and under the British occupation hopes shortly to establish the firm of Shlomo Naaba and Sons.

Kut-el-Amara. His fellow townsmen will address him as "Khawja," and Rachel, the pretty daughter, will be sought after and married to the son of another man of property.



## OUR ARMOURD CARS.

### FINE WORK IN RUSSIA.

#### COMMANDER'S STORY.

Commander Locker-Lampson, under whom the British Armoured Car Division operated in Russia during the offensive of the summer of 1917 and the subsequent disastrous retreat, has returned to England, and the *Oberster* contains the following interesting account of the deeds of this gallant band of British fighters:—

The British cars led the way for the Russian infantry in the attack on Brzesny at the end of June and when that movement collapsed and the Russian armies fell back in demoralisation before the enemy they were the last Allied units to retire from Austrian territory. The exploits of this division are vividly described in Commander Locker-Lampson's despatches. "It was expressly transferred from Roumania to the scene of the coming offensive in the hope that the example of its discipline and courage might steady the faltering ranks of the Russian infantry. It was attached to the corps in which the companies, nominally 250 strong, had been reduced to twenty-five or thirty each by desertion. Kerenski's proclamation, read in Army Orders, produced a strong emotional effect; whole audiences wept as though physically relaxed by what they heard, and I passed soldiers blubbering their way home in the dark. But when the attack was ordered, their officers refused to join it, their officers leaving over the parapet with mere handfuls in support, and dying to a man.

At the given moment the British cars dashed out fornicus (Kerenski himself being among the observers) and enfiladed the enemy trenches so successfully that the Russians were enabled to seize the first and second lines with only a few losses. The British unit also manned mortars and machine guns in the trenches, and with the latter repelled a German counter-attacking battalion with great loss. A British petty officer, unable to contain himself at the postscript of the Russians in his vicinity, "ran up to a platoon and forcibly hoisted a score of reluctant Russians over the parapet." The battalions which did advance found their flanks unprotected through the desertion of neighbouring units and so had to sustain a very overwhelming fire and give up every yard that they had won. The 13th Regiment refused to advance for the purpose of filling a gap. "It produced orders from the Corps Commander ordering it to advance only the next day, which it was quite willing to obey, but declined to follow the immediate command to advance from its own general. Mr. Kerenski, to whom the matter was referred, felt obliged to support the 13th Regiment in this refusal."

#### A DARK OUTLOOK.

The failure of the attack darkened the outlook in every respect. Writing immediately afterwards, Commander Locker-Lampson says: "All men who could be trusted to advance had been picked out weeks ahead and carefully grouped for duty in the front lines, and most are now dead or wounded, and cannot be replaced. After hope, excitement, stir, we are left with failure, reaction, and cowardice to carry on." The depression was enhanced by the blowing up of a vast munition dump at Kozova by enemy shells, a supply which would have sustained the army for a long period being thus destroyed.

The Russian offensive having expired, it became a question of resistance to the Austro-German advance. The British cars were in request for the purpose of checking the threat to Tarnopol, and their commander directed them to hold on till the arrival of enemy artillery should make further resistance useless. In some cases the Russian commanders, overwhelmed by the behaviour of their own troops, could offer no advice as to the tactics to be employed. Individual cars wrought havoc among the enemy infantry who had outstripped their guns. One "threaded its way over the bare fields, and wiped out two companies." Hundreds were killed by them on July 21st before their artillery came near enough to redress the balance, and meanwhile the advance had been checked for more than six hours. As the Austrian shells fell, "the Russian soldiers leapt down and prayed, overcome with fear, then 'flung away their rifles, abandoned their maxims, and ran screaming over the fields. The officers strove in vain to hold them, and then died, firing ineffectual pistol shots against the Austrians. Two of our cars were now out of action, and their crews nearly all wounded. The other two mowed the advancing enemy down, slowly retreating as they fought, until a frightened company of Russians flung itself on to Lieutenant Gwiler's car (hoping thus to escape) and by sheer weight broke it down." This experience was repeated in several instances. At one point a Russian officer, Baron Giard with a handful of supporters, held back thousands of demoralised fugitives by physical and moral force, not one of them daring to offer resistance. On July 23rd the Russian corps commander testified that the stand made by the British cars had delayed the enemy's advance over twenty hours. Next day the same tactics were renewed at the request of the officer commanding the 34th Corps. "He said how sorry he felt as a soldier to ask Englishmen to do what Russians would not do," and his staff turned away, unable to control their emotions."

The commander of the British cars had to keep a constant eye upon the timely withdrawal of his own base camps and stores. "We felt confident always of making a good fight with the armoured cars at the front, but we could not risk transport or stores near the enemy or fear of the Russian soldiers, who could not be trusted." He was repeatedly asked by the Russian authorities to assist in defence against armed lookers, but had to refuse to use arms against Russians. Before the end of July only two cars were left in running order but others were patched up and sent into action again. One German prisoner stated that "the British cars seemed everywhere," and that on one day alone they were responsible for 700 casualties. The same crews fought for sixteen days and nights without interruption. By remaining to the last and fighting to the

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## THE ONLY ROAD TO PEACE.

### MR. ASQUITH'S ADDRESS TO WOMEN.

Mr. Asquith, addressing the annual council meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation, at the Central Hall, Manchester, recently said: "We have just witnessed within the last few months the placing upon the statute-book of the largest measure of enfranchisement in our political history. (Cheers.) That new Reform Act gives statutory effect to many changes which we as Liberals have advocated for a generation past, and to some others upon which we have not, perhaps, been fully united—(laughter)—but which, now that they are accomplished, we all all attend to wholeheartedly, and endeavour to work in the best interests, not only of the Liberal party, but of the country. (Cheers.) Of the eight millions or so of estimated new electors who are to be put upon the register, I understand that about six million are likely to be women. I am not going to enter into any attempt to demarcate possible lines of appropriate political activity between the sexes; in fact, I think we ought now to recognise that we all ought to work together in the closest possible association with frequent and indeed continuous consultation and inter-communication, and with perfect harmony, both of spirit and of acts."

The work which women have done in the war no longer needs commendation. Their praise is in all men's mouths, but at this particular moment, and indeed for some time to come, there is one point especially affecting your sex to which I think the particular attention of associations like this federation, and those whom you represent, must be given. I mean the problem, or rather the group of problems, which arise from the gradual demobilisation of our women workers. In fact, as you know, the matter has already become urgent. The discontinuance of Government employment, and the consequent necessity of seeking employment no longer so employed in other spheres of industry and life, is already with us, and as the months go on, and as we hope and pray the war draws to an end, problems will become more acute, and, of course, enormously enlarged in their range and scope. As a matter of practical political administration, I do not think at this moment, and in the year or two which lie immediately before us, there is any subject—I speak, of course, not only of women, but of men also—which calls for more careful handling or more statesmanlike consideration."

#### AN OBJECT-LESSON.

I mention that incidentally, but I should like to make one observation of a rather wider scope. We all of us, and I suppose women as much as men, are anxious for peace—(cheers)—but none of us is disposed for a moment to purchase peace at the price of the sacrifices of the purpose for which we went to war, and which we hold in our hearts and consciences are unselfish and worthy of a great people. The hope of a possible approximation of ideals and aims which I suppose all of us have had the strongest temptation to entertain and encourage here, I must confess, in my judgment, have for the moment heavily overclouded. As I said a short time ago, the so-called treaty concluded between the Central Powers and the representatives of the Russian people is no treaty at all, and bears none of the marks of a genuine, binding or enduring compact. It was extorted by force and intimidation. It violates its provisions, both in letter and in spirit, every purpose and every ideal which every one of the civilised competent forces, both on one side and the other, has at any rate professed to hold; but it is for a moment, and that is where its sinister significance comes in an object-lesson, and the only object-lesson in a concrete form which the world has before it, of the sort of terms a victorious Germany would seek to impose."

Although these proceedings fill us with dependence, one knows perfectly well that an arrangement of that kind cannot last, that it contains within itself the seeds of its own destruction and death. It is like—if I may use the comparison—one of those scenes which you see in the devastated and deserted battlefields in France on the Somme. There is upon the surface a luxurious and rank vegetation, while beneath the ground, as we know, is so much unexploded ammunition. There is no permanent hope of prosperity or tranquillity in conditions such as these. But the very thing seems to me to make it, if possible, even more important that it was before, that we and all our Allies—and this is a purpose with which I am sure all women ought, specially to concern themselves—should never cease to make it clear that we are fighting for clean purposes. (Cheers.) We are not fighting for annexation and aggrandisement, for what is called development of imperialism, but for maintaining the equal rights of great and small peoples, of restoring what has wrongfully been taken away, and providing, so far as may be, reparation for the wrongs that have been done, and above all, and beyond all, for victory as a means to an end, and not as an end in itself—the avenue and the road, the only avenue and the only road, by which the peace of the world can be placed beyond jeopardy of the ambitions and rivalries of selfish and mischief-making interests, and forces and of becoming the common object of all peoples of the civilised world. (Cheers.) It is our duty to our Allies and to the neutral world, and it is our duty none the less to the people—I say nothing of the Governments of the Powers against whom we are fighting. Let us make it clear beyond dispute that these are the only the purposes which brought us into the war, and which after three years of unparalleled storm and stress, suffering and sacrifice, still keep us in the war. It is for this attainment, and nothing more than this attainment, and nothing less than this attainment, that we continue the struggle. (Cheers.)

and they enabled many Russian guns and infantry to escape which could not otherwise have got away. They "were the latest troops away from the Kuro-patkin front, from Podguzec, from the Tarnopol road, and from Buczacz to the frontier town of Gusiutyn; and when they crossed the frontier they were the last Allied troops to fight on Austro-German territory."

## RECONSTRUCTION.

### LABOUR RE-SETTLEMENT.

The Minister of Labour outlined at the first meeting of the Labour Re-settlement Committee some of the problems of employment which will face the country during and after demobilisation, and the steps which are being taken to deal with them. The Committee is representative of all the interests which will be concerned, and it will be associated closely with the Ministry at every stage, being consulted upon measures before they are adopted. There are two questions which have to be dealt with:—

- (1)—The re-settlement of sailors and soldiers in civil life.
- (2)—The re-settlement of those who have been engaged in war industries.

Already a scheme for dealing with the first problem has been prepared, and will be placed before the Committee, while two reports have been prepared relating to the second, which Mr. Roberts considers more difficult even than that of the discharged service men.

Mr. Roberts said it was his intention to avail himself to the fullest extent of the committee's services and to associate them very closely with the administrative work of the department. He could not, of course, involve upon them the responsibility to Parliament and the country for the measures which would have to be adopted, but he did intend to ask them to share that responsibility with him to some extent by placing all those measures before them for their consideration and advice before they were adopted. He felt that the war would have been largely fought in vain unless it produced a better state of affairs in which the advantages of leisure and education were more equally and justly distributed throughout the whole population, but in order to bring this state of affairs about it was necessary to restore the prosperity of industry, which would largely depend on the success which attended the committee's labours.

Turning to the subjects with which the committee would be called upon to deal, he pointed out that there were two sets of questions which they would have to consider, though they constituted a single problem. First, there was the re-settlement of sailors and soldiers to civil life; and secondly, the re-settlement of those who had been engaged in war industries. As regards the former, a sub-committee of the Reconstruction Committee had examined the matter, with great care, and they would be asked to consider the scheme which that committee recommended for adoption. He thought they would agree that the committee's work had been done well, and that they had studied the question with great thoroughness. As regards civil workers, another committee appointed by the Reconstruction Department had been considering their case, and had submitted two reports, which would shortly be laid before them. The question of the civil worker he regarded as being more difficult even than that of the soldier and sailor. Recent events, of which the committee would be aware, in connection with discharges of a certain number of munition workers, had brought this question up already in a concrete form. The position arising from these discharges, whether as regarded the total numbers discharged or the proportion of finding fresh work, was not of a nature that need cause alarm, but it should be carefully watched, and he proposed to ask the committee to appoint a sub-committee whose function it would be to keep the matter under review.

#### EX-SERVICE MEN.

Among the most important subjects for consideration by the committee would be the arrangements for providing out-of-work pay for ex-service men and others who were unemployed. In the case of ex-service men, it was proposed to give a month's furlough with full pay and allowances, to be followed by a free policy of insurance against unemployment, which would be valid during the succeeding year. The precise amount of the weekly rate of benefit was not yet settled, but it was proposed that it should be possible to draw benefit up to a total of twenty weeks during the year. The majority of civil war workers were already insured against unemployment, but the rate of benefit in their case was only 7s. a week, and though this was in many cases supplemented by voluntary insurance, though trade unions, the amount was clearly inadequate for any prolonged period of unemployment. The best method of dealing with this difficulty and also of providing for the work people who were not at present covered by insurance was receiving careful consideration.

There was, further, the question of the machinery by which the schemes adopted were to be administered. The Government had decided that the work would have to be largely carried out by the employment exchanges, which were the only national organisation capable of coping with the problem. We possessed a great advantage in having the organisation of the employment exchanges ready to hand. He did not think, however, that the exchanges or, indeed, any piece of official machinery could carry out the task unaided. They, like the Ministry itself, would need the constant advice and co-operation of the employers and workpeople in their districts. In order to secure this he and his predecessor had undertaken the formation of local advisory committees, consisting in the main of an equal number of employers and workpeople's representatives, who would be associated with the work of the exchanges. He was sure that, in order to obtain the best results, it was necessary to utilise the trade union organisation to the fullest possible extent. He knew that some trade unionists did not like using the exchanges, but he also knew many others who did, and he hoped that by a free interchange of information between the exchange and the local branches of the trade unions through the latter's representatives on the local advisory committees it would be possible to deal successfully with these men."

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## "THE RIGHT OF YOUTH."

### MR. FISHER ON EDUCATION.

#### LANCASHIRE AND THE BILL.

The second reading of the Education Bill produced a number of interesting speeches, including another masterly address on the general principles and purposes of the bill from the Minister of Education himself. The amount of direct opposition was negligible, and came from negligible quarters. The most serious criticism came, as was expected, from Lancashire, and was directed against Clause 16, which deals with the compulsory part-time attendance at continuation schools between the ages of 14 and 18. Sir Henry Gilbert, a noted Lancashire educationist, was the spokesman of this criticism, which Mr. Fisher treated with great respect, but also with marked firmness.

The Minister gave the House a rough estimate of the probable yearly cost of some of the leading features of the bill:—

Raising of the school age to 14	£1,000,000
Continuation schools (class limited to 30)	£8,750,000
Nursery schools for children from 2 to 5 years	£900,000

These figures, of course, represent eventual expenditure, and the cost will be divided equally between rates and taxes. An estimate for Lancashire, with a population of 716,000, gave totals, excluding grants, of £10,000 for the first year, and £14,000, £24,000, and £28,000 for the next three years.

Mr. Fisher said the bill was based on the principle of the right of youth to the right to an adequate education, the value of which is now almost universally recognised, applying to certain circumstances, no man said he had no fear of the bill injuring the individuality of the children or weakening parental responsibility. Education, he said, was not one of the dark arts; its function was not to repress individuality, but to foster it. He claimed that there was no danger of any State suffering economic injury from educational improvement, and showed how the bill contained provisions which made it certain that it would do great things for the children in the way of improving their health and their morals. It will secure that during the most impressionable time of adolescence the young people of this country will be continually subject to disinterested supervision, and the experience alike of evening schools and of the experimental schools started by public-spirited employers has been wholly encouraging in its results. Our present system, which arbitrarily cuts off and closes the education of the great majority of young people at 14, represents a continual waste of character, ability, and physique, and Mr. Fisher's argument—which no one seriously disputed—was that youth has a right to much more than this, and that it is the duty of the State to provide it.

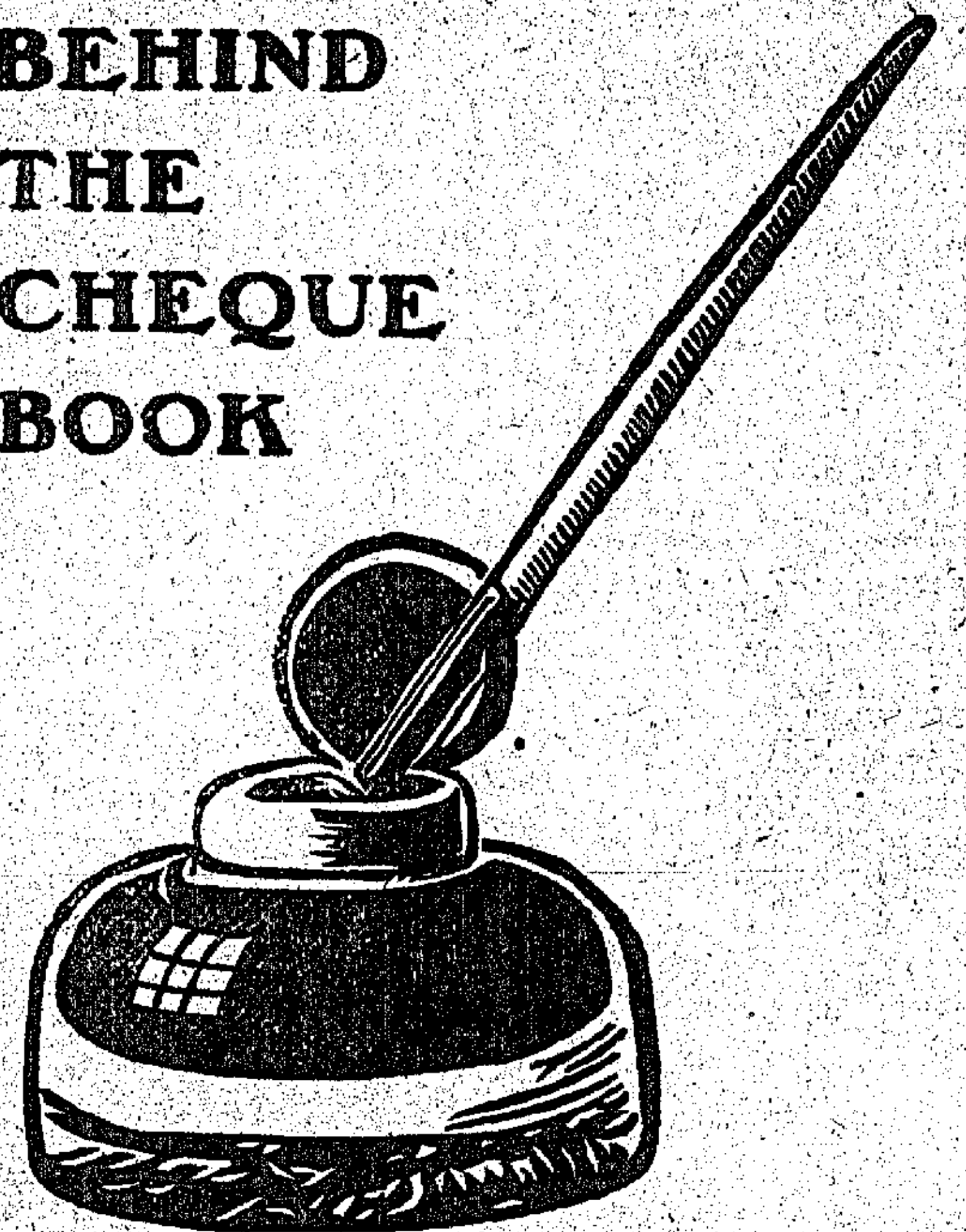
#### A COUNTER-PROPOSAL.

What, then, is the Lancashire argument? It is to be observed that Lancashire no longer demands the half-time system as necessary for the existence of the cotton industry. That plea is heard no more. Even Lancashire is prepared to accept the raising of the age to 14. What Sir Henry Gilbert proposed in effect was that a new complete half-time system should be set up for boys and girls between 14 and 16, instead of 380 years in each year between 14 and 16, which is the scheme of the bill. Together with that, Sir Henry suggested a large increase in the number of students selected for higher educational development by means of maintenance scholarships. Mr. Fisher, in reply, asked whether the people of Lancashire would be ready to accept half wages for this half-time work of the young people, and pointed out that at half the half-time labour would be turned adrift at 16, this would necessarily mean the creation of a new blind-alley occupation.

It is not disputed that the Lancashire cotton industry will be more prejudicially affected by these proposals than any other industry in the country. For at 16 a cotton weaver is doing adult work, and earning an adult's wages. But the Minister made it clear that if it comes to a sharp choice between injury to a trade and injury to a great State interest, it is the trade which will have to accommodate itself to the new educational conditions, just as it has to accommodate itself to any new factory legislation. The interest of the children—the right of youth to its fair chance—is greater than that of any trade. *Daily Telegraph*.

There was another class of questions connected with re-settlement which would have to be dealt with on a basis of industry. An important part of the scheme, so far as the Army was concerned, was the classification of the various trades of the country according to their national importance, and the immediate prospects of employment which they offered. In order to deal with this very difficult problem the Government would require the most complete and up-to-date information about the prospects as regards raw materials, financial facilities, and employment in all the principal industries. Again, there were questions such as the arrangements for reinstating soldiers and munition workers in the industries from which they have gone, the arrangements in regard to substitutes who have been introduced in their places, the arrangements necessary to enable men whose apprenticeship or training had been interrupted by military service to resume their instruction, so that they might become qualified as fully-skilled men. All these were very difficult problems which could only be settled by each industry for itself, and it was in connection with these questions, among others, that the Government hoped to obtain very substantial assistance from the Joint Industrial Councils which were in process of being set up in various industries, and the Inter-Industry Reconstruction Committee, which the Ministry of Reconstruction, the Board of Trade, and the Ministry of Labour were collaborating to bring into being in those industries which were not ready for the immediate formation of Industrial Councils.

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SHANGHAI....."KAIFONG"..... On 14th May, Noon.  
NEWORHANG....."TAMSUI"..... On 16th May, D'light.

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Colombo	10th May	Str. from Colombo	16th	19th

When Passengers change Steamers at COLOMBO. Accommodation in the connecting Steamer from COLOMBO is definitely reserved in Hongkong at the time of Booking. On the Australian Route Tickets interchangeable with Orient Line.

SAILINGS DIRECT TO  
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SS. LEAVE HONGKONG ABOUT

Passengers may travel by Railway in Japan between Ports of Call free of charge. Return Tickets are available by Messageries Maritimes Company.

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Owing to the War in Europe Steamers and Sailing dates are liable to be cancelled or altered without notice.

## NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

Consignees are reminded of the necessity to apply to the Company's Agents regarding arrival of consignments expected of which they have received documents or advice.  
Any damaged packages must be left in the Godown for examination by the Consignee, and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GODDARD & DOUGLAS, at 10 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognised. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godown.  
For further information, Passage Fares, Freight, Handbooks, Dates of Sailing, etc., apply to

E. V. D. PARR,  
Superintendent.

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SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

DESTINATION	STEAMER & DISPLACEMENT	SAILING DATES
SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	HIRANO MARU 16,000 tons	10th May 11 A.M.
	YOKOHAMA MARU 12,600 tons	14th May 11 A.M.
NAGASAKI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA	TANGO MARU 13,500 tons	18th May 11 A.M.
	NIKKO MARU 9,600 tons	19th June 11 A.M.

SHANGHAI, MOJI & KOBE ...

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NEW YORK VIA SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, SAN FRANCISCO & PANAMA CANAL ...

BOMBAY VIA SINGAPORE, MALACCA & COLOMBO ...

CALCUTTA VIA SINGAPORE, PENANG & RANGOON ...

† Omitting Shanghai and/or Moji.

† Wireless telegraphy.

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NEXT SAILINGS FROM HONGKONG.

† SUWA MARU ... Wed. 15th May, at 11 A.M.  
† FUSHIMI MARU ... Tues. 11th June, at 11 A.M.  
† Omitting Manila Eastbound.

For further information apply to

Telephone 292 and 293 NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.  
B. MORI, Manager.

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Steamers	Tons	Leave Hongkong
KOREA MARU	18,000	FRI., 24th May.
SIBERIA MARU	18,000	SAT., 8th June.
TENYO MARU	21,000	SAT., 22nd June.
SEINTO MARU	22,000	TUES., 16th July.

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NIPPON MARU	11,000	May 15th.
KIYO MARU	17,400	July 12th.
ANYO MARU	18,500	Sept. 6th.

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O. S. K.

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(SUBJECT TO ALTERATION).

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"ARABIA MARU" ... SATURDAY, 1st June, at 3 P.M.  
"AFRICA MARU" ... WEDNESDAY, 6th June, at 3 P.M.

NORTH AMERICAN LINE—This line maintains a regular fortnightly service between Hongkong and Puget Sound ports touching at intermediate ports in Japan. Overland cargo taken on through Bills of Lading for U.S.A. and connection are made at Puget Sound ports with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway.

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FORMOSAN LINE—For Tamsui, Keelung, Tainan, via Swatow and Amoy

"SOSEI MARU" ... THURSDAY, 9th May, at 8 A.M.  
"JOSEI MARU" ... THURSDAY, 9th May, at 9 A.M.  
"KAJO MARU" ... SUNDAY, 12th May, at 10 A.M.

These Formosan Lines will arrive at and depart from the SOON YIP WHARF, near the Harbor Office, and while the steamer is alongside the wharf Telephone No. 77 will be fixed.

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